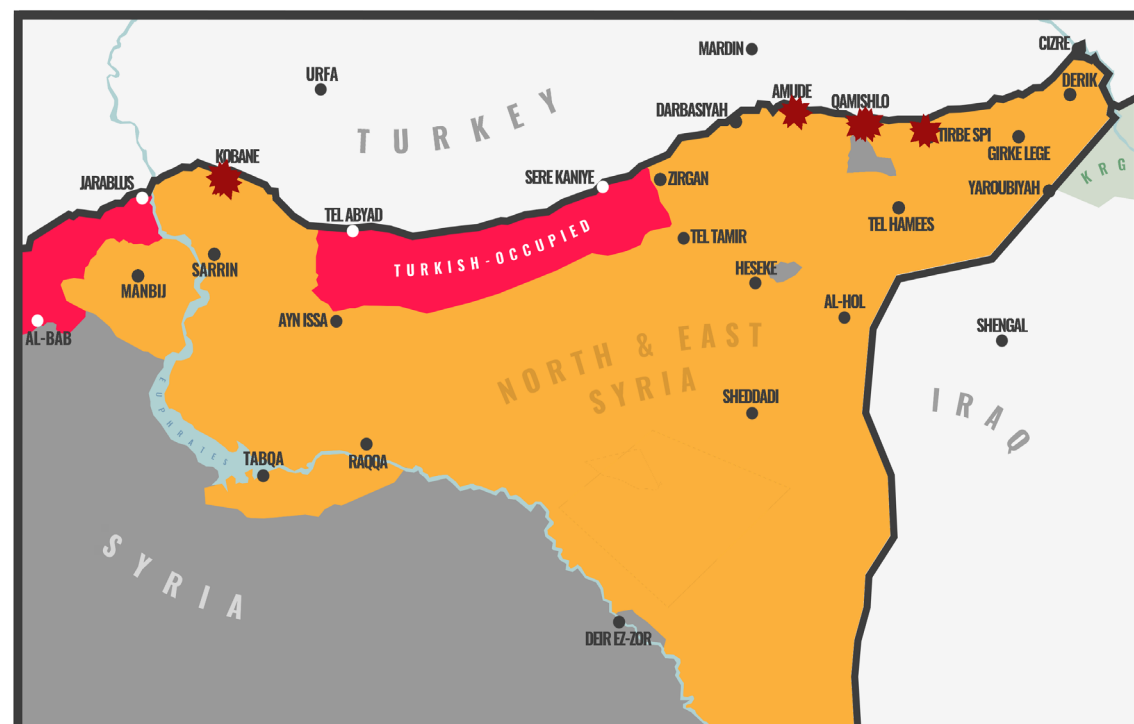


# TURKEY'S CHRISTMAS AIRSTRIKES TARGETING NORTH AND EAST SYRIA'S CIVILIAN SERVICE FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## KEY POINTS

- Turkey targets 18 different civilian infrastructure sites in Kurdish-led North and East Syria (NES) with 32 airstrikes on Christmas day, including a petrol station, factories producing construction materials, foods and agricultural products, a printing house, grain silos and a mill (see full list of locations at the bottom) – NES' leaders state that this amounts to a war crime
- This comes not 3 months after a 5-day Turkish airstrike campaign destroyed North and East Syria's power infrastructure, cutting electricity and water for over 1 million people
- Turkey's strikes kill 8 civilians and wound 11 – the death toll may rise as some people are injured critically
- The Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) suspends the work of all its non-essential institutions during the attacks
- NES' major cities witness demonstrations as people take to the streets to protest against Turkey's attacks
- Rojava Information Center is available to provide on-the-ground comment, plus photos and videos from airstrike sites and contact to political representatives and humanitarian personnel for comment



**AMUDE LOCATIONS**  
LENTIL FACTORY  
WEDDING VENUE  
OLIVE OIL FACTORY

**TIRBESPI LOCATIONS**  
MEHRKAN VILLAGE

**KOBANE LOCATIONS**  
MESHTANOUR CLINIC  
CAR GARAGE/MECHANIC  
FEED FACTORY

**QAMISHLO LOCATIONS**  
SADGOP INDUSTRY SITE  
CEMENT FACTORY  
MILL  
GRAIN SILOS  
PRINTING HOUSE  
COTTON FACTORY  
OLD TRAIN STATION  
PARK NEAR ALAYA PRISON  
DIALYSIS CENTER  
CERAMICS WAREHOUSE  
PETROL STATION  
AGRICULTURAL FACILITY

Turkish airstrikes, 25.12.2023

## BACKGROUND

-Turkey's campaign of airstrikes against NES has been ongoing since the 2019 invasion, killing hundreds of civilians to date

-At the beginning of October, Turkey embarked on a 5-day airstrike assault, systematically hitting NES' electricity, gas and oil facilities, causing extensive infrastructural and economic damage and worsening the already-fragile humanitarian situation in NES, **as reported by RIC.**

-On the 23rd of December, in the mountains of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), the militant Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) conducted operations against Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) positions, killing at least 12 Turkish soldiers; Turkish President Erdogan referred to the attacks as "terrorist" and vowed revenge; on the night of the 23rd, the TAF proceeded to strike oil and gas infrastructure sites in NES, cutting power from electrical substations serving half the Jazira canton and injuring one civilian; the Turkish Ministry of Defence announced these airstrikes were "against terrorist targets" for the purpose of "border security"

-Two days later – on Christmas day – Turkey carried out an intense string of airstrikes from 10:00 until 21:00 local time, mostly focused on Qamishlo city but also including the cities of Amude, Kobane, and Tirbespi, systematically targeting more essential civilian infrastructure, this time hitting factories producing construction materials, agricultural products and foods, as well as grain silos, a mill, industrial sites, a dialysis center and a petrol station

-NES' political and military leaders have long emphasised that the political and military institutions in NES are separate from the PKK – contrary to Turkey's claims – and now accuse Turkey of "exporting its internal crises" and conducting airstrikes to deliberately create instability and target the DAANES



*Industrial site, north-east Qamishlo, 25.12.2023*

## LATEST STRIKES

-18 confirmed locations – all civilian – struck on Christmas day, adding to the 4 locations struck 2 days prior (see full list at bottom).

-Turkey struck many of these sites on more than one occasion during the 25th; warplanes and drones were visible in the skies above Qamishlo all day

-Turkish airstrikes kill a total of 8 civilians – Berivan Mihemed, Riyad Hemo, Fares al-Fares, Ferhan Teme, Hussein Ehmed, Renas Hussein, Ferhan Khelef and Aya al-Sabawi – and injure 11, adding to the 1 injured on the 23rd.

-The Turkish-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) have upped their shelling along the contact lines separating DAANES-governed areas from the Turkish-occupied areas of NES, striking villages around Shehba and Manbij



*Meshtanour clinic, Kobane, 25.12.2023*

## STATEMENT

The DAANES stated on the 25th, “these institutions targeted – just like as in early October this year – provide services for and meet the humanitarian needs of the population, as well as ease the burden caused by the embargo and the war in the region”, adding that “we, the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, condemn these attacks and the oppression of the Turkish state and the targeting of civil and service institutions in North and East Syria. We confirm that these attacks increase the humanitarian and economic difficulties and threaten the work of maintaining peace and fighting terrorism. We call on the UN and relevant legal and humanitarian organizations to take a clear position against these attacks that threaten the peace and unity of millions of people who live in difficult conditions. [...] Also, we call on the International Coalition to take a clear and open position against these attacks, for these attacks to end. Because they [the attacks] threaten the achievements against terrorism, has a negative impact on the general situation and threatens peace

and security. Additionally, we call on Russia to take a clear stance regarding this conflict. Because it is a threat not only confined to our regions, but directly against all regions of Syria. We call on the government of Damascus and all parties to protect the unity of Syria, to take a stand against these attacks - which are against the whole of Syria and the geography of North and East Syria. It is wrong to consider these attacks in any other way. They are a serious violation against Syria's sovereignty too, targeting institutions and service centers that serve all the people of Syria."

Akid Abdel Majeed, administrator at the Suwaydiyah gas station, told RIC on the 25th: Turkey's attacks have "focused mainly on the destruction of the livelihoods of the people, hitting infrastructure such as gas, electricity and oil stations, mills, and health centers. The strikes on the 23rd, hitting oil and gas stations and industrial facilities, led to the cessation of pumping oil and gas and thus the cessation of the gas plant which supplies turbines with clean gas in order to generate electricity. This led electricity turbines stopping, and as a result our areas have been without electricity from when the attacks took place. We conclude from these strikes, [Turkey] is against any forms of democratic projects, unity of peoples, and the peaceful political solution - regarding Syria or the Middle East. As we know, for more than ten years, a democratic administration has been built, administering the North and East region of Syria. This administration has become an example to the world and a hope for freedom and a dignified life for the Syrian people - with all their components. Consider the recent developments taking place: the new Social Contract, in which people could see solutions and developments, and also the fourth conference of the Syrian Democratic Council with all the parties, organizations and individuals who participated and additionally the unity of the peoples of all components. For this reason, the Turkish state regularly practices these criminal acts, going against constitutions, international laws, and human rights, and exports its internal crisis, starves the people, spreads fear and panic, and opens the doors to people being displaced to other countries which continues Turkey's demographic changes project in the region."

SDF commander-in-chief Mazloum Abdi stated on the 25th: "Turkey's aggression has taken a dangerous turn today, expanding its targeting of infrastructure and civilian facilities in North and East Syria. This development causes huge losses to civilians and indicates the adoption of a new extermination policy. The continual targeting is an escalation, raising the stress level, which undermines stability."

## **FULL LIST OF AIRSTRIKES (AS OF 22:00, 25.12.2023):**

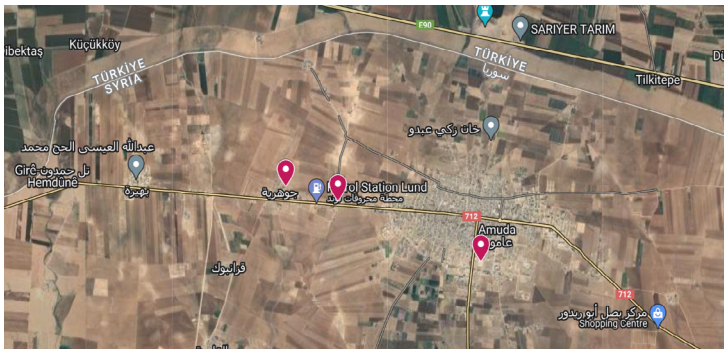
23.12.2023

1. Odeh oil field, Tirbespi; 2. Sayeeda oil field, Tirbespi; 3. Sabia power station;

4. Factory near Tirbespi.

25.12.2023

5. Sadcop industrial site, Qamishlo; 6. Printing house, Qamishlo; 7. Old train station, Qamishlo; 8. Cement factory, Qamishlo; 9. Mill, Qamishlo; 10. Grain silos, Qamishlo; 11. Cotton factory, Qamishlo; 12. Park near Alaya prison, Qamishlo; 13. Ceramics warehouse, Qamishlo; 14. Al-Falaheen petrol station, Qamishlo; 15. Agricultural materials factory, Qamishlo; 16. Lentil packaging factory, Amude; 17. Wedding venue, Amude; 18. Olive oil factory, Amude; 19. Mehrkan village, Tirbespi; 20. Meshtanour clinic, Kobane; 21. Car mechanic, Kobane; 22. Feed factory, Kobane.



Turkish airstrikes on Amude, 25.12.2023



Turkish airstrikes on Qamishlo, 25.12.2023



Turkish airstrikes on Tirbespi, 25.12.2023



Turkish airstrikes on Kobane, 25.12.2023

**CONTACT**

Contact Rojava Information Center via WhatsApp on: +963 992 461 683 for photos, videos, comment and contact to interviewees on the ground.