

Weekly Intelligence Brief

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Kurdish Militants Declare Ceasefire After 40 Years of Conflict

Matthew Petersen

Senior Analyst
Europe Desk

On 01 MAR, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) officially declared a ceasefire in its conflict with Turkey, which has left over 40,000 dead since its start in 1984. On 27 FEB, the leader of the PKK, Abdullah Ocalan, imprisoned since 1999, called for the group's disbandment from his jail cell.

The PKK was formed in 1978 by Ocalan with the aim of creating a Marxist Kurdish state in southern Turkey. The group has operated largely out of Syria, from where its forces infiltrate

Turkey and commit terrorist attacks. Turkey has conducted campaigns in northern Syria and Iraq to try and root out the organization, with the most recent being a three-day airstrike campaign following a shooting at Turkish Aerospace Industries in October that left five dead.

In recent months, Turkey has removed Kurdish-backed politicians from office and increased strikes on the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The SDF is seen as tied to the PKK after Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was overthrown in December. These developments led to Ocalan calling for the dissolution and disarmament of

the PKK. The PKK announced that they will not attack unless attacked to pave the way for peace and democracy.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has remained cautious of the legitimacy of the ceasefire and has responded to the declaration by vowing to continue military campaigns against the PKK if it proves necessary.

We can assess with moderate confidence it is likely that peace talks between Turkey and the PKK will continue. We can also assess with moderate confidence that Kurds will see more representation in Turkish government as the violence lessens.

Joint Arms Development Between Poland and Slovakia

Kevin Taber
Senior Analyst
Europe Desk

On 24 FEB, Poland and Slovakia announced plans to expand military-technical cooperation between the two nations. This deal will include joint production of Polish KTO Rosomak armored vehicles equipped with the Slovak-made Turra-30 turret systems. The two nations also discussed joint production on 155 mm artillery shells, Polish Piorun man-portable anti-air systems, as well as the K2PL main battle tank, which is a South Korean-licensed product that is manufactured in Poland.

This deal highlights the overarching goals of Poland to ensure the security of its sovereignty, as well as the defense of the nation and its allies. Both nations recognize the need for cooperation on the development and production of defense systems to ensure that they will be properly equipped in the event of a threat. Similar deals have been seen, such as the arms deal between Poland and South Korea in 2022 and 2024, when South Korea approved the sale of K2 main battle tanks and K9 self-propelled howitzers. The Asian nation also granted Poland the license to produce the K2 platform.

We can assess with high confidence that it is likely Poland and Slovakia will continue to cooperate in the production of defense systems to strengthen relations between the two nations. We assess with high confidence it is likely that Poland will continue to cooperate with other nations such as South Korea to further its defense capabilities.



UK Prime Minister Holding Summit on Future Support for Ukraine

Lex Martin
Head of Desk
Europe Desk

On 28 FEB, U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer invited over a dozen leaders in Europe to a summit on Ukraine, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. This summit is to be hosted in London on 02 MAR and will focus on the security of Ukraine's current state. It is also reported that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Mark Rutte and European Union leaders Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa are expected to attend the summit.

Starmer will be using the summit to discuss European action on Ukraine to show the U.K.'s support for securing peace and a lasting deal that ensures Ukraine's future sovereignty and security. Prior to the summit, it was announced that Starmer would be holding a one-on-one meeting with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to discuss possible military support and economic pressure on Russia.

We can assess with moderate confidence that if the summit can result in an agreement on how Europe will be moving forward with supporting Ukraine in its war with Russia, it is highly likely that we could see an increase in economic,

military, and logistical support for Ukraine. But we can also assess with moderate confidence it is likely Russia will retaliate in some way for the EU deciding to hold a summit and inviting Ukraine.



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Editor-in-Chief
Tessa Bentley

Associate Editors
Aubrey Belanger
Jordan Maple
Brandon Macallair

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