

**IMPORTANCE OF TURKISH REPUBLIC AND TURKISH
ARMED FORCES IN THE WORLD PEACE UP TO NOW FROM
THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

ARSLAN, Esat*
TÜRKİYE/TURÇIA

ÖZET

II. Dünya Savaşı'ndan Günümüze Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'nin ve Türk Silahlı Kuvvetlerinin Dünya Barışındaki Önemi

Bu bildiri esas olarak İkinci Dünya Savaşı'ndan günümüze Türkiye Cumhuriyeti ve Türk Silahlı Kuvvetleri (TSK)'nin kendi tarihî olgularıyla ilgili olarak bölgesel ve dünya barışına katkıları üzerine odaklanmıştır. Türk Devleti'nin Kurucusu ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Cumhurbaşkanı Mustafa Kemal Atatürk'ün "Yurtta Barış, Dünyada Barış" özdeyişiyile uyumlu olarak insanoğlunun idealleri uğruna Türk Devleti dünya barışına katkıda bulunmuş ve Türk Silahlı Kuvvetleri de, barış koruma harekâtları icra etmiştir. Türkiye, Kore Savaşı sırasında uluslararası askerî kuvvetler içersinde bulunarak ilk adımını atmıştır. Türk Silahlı Kuvvetleri insanlık idealleri uğruna Kore Savaşına katılmış, bütün dünyanın dikkatini üzerine çekmiştir. TSK, 20 Temmuz 1974 tarihinde Kıbrıs adasındaki Kıbrıslı Türklere karşı yapılan genel kıyımı durdurmak için adaya bir amfibi barış harekâtı düzenlemiştir. İki gün sonra Türk Barış Harekâtı BM'nin kararı ile durdurulmuştur. Ancak, taraflar arasında yapılan görüşmelerden herhangi bir sonuç alınmayınca yeni bir harekât 14 Ağustos 1974 tarihinde yeniden başlamış ve beş gün sonra TSK, şimdiki Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti'nin sınırlarını ele geçirmiştir. Böylece TSK, Kıbrıslı Türklerin canlarını kurtarmış ve olası bir katliamı önlemiştir.

Daha sonraki yıllarda TSK, dünyanın en ücra köşelerinde, Somali'den Lübnan'a kadar barışı koruma harekâtlarına katılan diğer yabancı kuvvetlerin ön cephelerinde görev almıştır. TSK'nin görev aldığı barışı koruma etkinlikleri, birlik bazlı barışı koruma harekâtları ve personel bazlı uluslararası izleme görevleri olarak iki kategoride yapılmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Türkiye Cumhuriyeti, Türk Silahlı Kuvvetleri, TSK, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, BM Barışı Koruma Kuvvetleri.

* Cag University, Head of International Relations Department. **e-posta:** esat@cag.edu.tr, **Fax:** +90. 324. 651 4810/217.

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses mainly on contributions to regional and world peace of Turkish Republic and Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) upto present time from the Second World War related with their historical accounts. In the second half of the 20th Century, Turkish Republic contributed for the peace of the world, “Peace At Home Peace in the World”, in accordance with the motto of the President of Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of Turkish state, and Turkish Armed Forces carried out the peacekeeping operations for the sake of ideals of human beings as well. Turkey took its first step integrating with international military forces during the Korean War. Turkish Armed Forces, on account of ideals of humankind, joined Korean War attracted attention to the whole of the world. TAF arranged a peace amphibious operation to the island in order to stop atrocities against Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus on June 20th, 1974. Two days later, Turkish Peace Operation stopped with UN decision. Nevertheless, a new operation started again when it didn’t take any result from negotiations among sides on August 14th, 1974 and five days later, TAF seized the boundaries of North Cyprus Turkish Republic now. So, TAF undertook lives of Turkish Cypriots and prevented from any probable massacre.

TAF, in the years later, went in for fore front of other foreign troops which were joined the peacekeeping operations from Somali to Lebanon in the solitary corner of the globe. Its peacekeeping-related activities fall under two main categories: unit-based peacekeeping operations and personnel-based international monitoring missions.

Key Words: Turkish Republic, Turkish Armed Forces, TAF, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, UN Peacekeeping Troops.

INTRODUCTION

It is highly important that the contributions to regional and world peace of Turkish Republic and Turkish Armed Forces (*TAF*) upto present time from the Second World War related with their historical accounts. In the second half of the 20th Century, Turkish Republic contributed for the peace of the world, “**Peace At Home, Peace in the World**”, in accordance with the motto of the President of Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of Turkish state, and Turkish Armed Forces carried out the peacekeeping operations for the sake of ideals of human beings. Türkiye took its first step integrating with international military forces during the Korean War. Turkish Armed Forces, on account of ideals of humankind, joined Korean War attracted attention to the whole of the world. TAF arranged a peacekeeping amphibious operation to the island in order to stop atrocities against Turkish Cypriots in Cyprus on June 20th, 1974. Two days later, Turkish Peace Operation stopped with UN decision on June 20th, 1974. Nevertheless, a new operation started again when it didn’t

take any result from negotiations among sides on August 14th, 1974 and five days later, TAF seized the boundaries of North Cyprus Turkish Republic now. So, TAF undertook lives of Turkish Cypriots and prevented from any probable massacre.

TAF, in the years later, went in for fore front of other foreign troops which were joined the peacekeeping operations from Somali to Lebanon in the solitary corner of the globe. Its peacekeeping-related activities fall under two main categories: Unit-based peacekeeping operations and personnel-based international monitoring missions.

The Road Led to the Second World War and M. Kemal Atatürk's Predictions Aimed at Peace

M. Kemal Atatürk, founder of Turkish Republic, who foresaw the Second World War, during his meeting with the Romanian Foreign Minister of his visit to Ankara in 1937, after a short discussion of world politics, mentioned that whatever the circumstances were, peace should be sustained, he stated his thoughts as;

“There is a need to consider humanity as one body and nations as organs of the body; whether the tip of the thumb sores, the rest of the body will be affected; whether there is a disorder in one part of the world, we should not stay resilient; we need to act as it happened to us.”

M. Kemal Atatürk fore saw that the WWII would target the humanity and cause mass destruction and also the precautions that need to be taken to halt the possible war in 1937 with a futurologistic approach. WWII ended by atomic bombardment on Hiroshima and Nagazaki. Radioactive contamination that impacted throughout decades on humankind had to be experienced and paved way to controlled escalation era for both super powers. In other words, rapid production of nuclear weaponry caused the determination of the guidelines for careful usage of the arms and set the principles of rules of engagement bilaterally. The chain of principle is determined through evaluating all the possibilities even a direct telephone line was dedicated for the authorization of usage of these weapons between the presidents.

Peace Operations By The Turkish Forces Post World War

Korean War

Korean War began on June 25, 1950 with the raid of North Korean Armed Forces to South Korea. Later on; around twenty “Free World Countries” including Türkiye for the first time in the recorded history formed a force named as “United Nations Forces” on South Korea’s side and Communist China Forces on North Korea’s side continued by growing until July 27, 1953 and at this date the war situation was ended with a temporary “Armistice Agreement”. Turkey; due to the political conditions of that day, was the first

country giving a positive response to the call of United Nations after USA and gave a “Brigade Duty Force” of 4, 500 soldiers to the order of UN.

This brigade with the fame and honor named as “Turkish Brigade” joined the combat by late November of 1950 almost at the same time with Communist Chinese Forces and played an active role in quite a lot of big and small combats until the Armistice. Türkiye posted a total of 15,000 personnel in Korea in between 1950-1953 alternately.

Cyprus Peacekeeping Operation

Turkish Armed Forces organized an amphibian peace operation on July 20, 1974 to Cyprus Island to stop the ethnic cleansing against Turkish Cypriots. After two days Turkish Peacekeeping Operation was stopped due to UN’s ceasefire resolution on July 20, 1974. However; since no result could be obtained from the negotiations in between the parties on August 14, 1974 operation started again and after five days Turkish Armed Forces occupied the area now called Northern Cyprus Turkish Republic borders. Therefore, Turkish Armed Forces took Turkish Cypriots under guarantee and stopped annihilation.

The Loyal Ally of Nato: Turkish Armed Forces

While fulfilling its responsibilities within the NATO alliance, the TAF continues to improve in both quality and quantity. As the world’s eighth-largest military power—as well as Europe’s largest and NATO’s second largest—the TAF is the most powerful and effective military in the region. Since the end of the Cold War, the peacekeeping operations it has been actively involved and have helped it emerge as an effective force, not only in Turkey’s neighborhood but also in areas as distant as East Timor and Sudan.

The TAF and Peace-Support Operations

The TAF believes that the most effective way of preventing and controlling emerging crises is through international peacekeeping operations. Hence, it supports peacekeeping and humanitarian missions led by the UN, NATO, the European Union, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), regardless of where such missions take place. The TAF focuses on effective participation in areas that are important to national interests and minimal representative participation in other areas.

The rising threats in the new global security environment, as well as in Turkey’s immediate vicinity, require the development and maintenance of small but agile, self-sufficient, and mobile units. For this reason Türkiye has prepared a brigade-level unit as well as a logistical support and humanitarian assistance brigade with the purpose of effectively contributing to potential peace missions.

Paralleling the world’s changes since the end of the Cold War, the number of international peacekeeping operations has increased, as has TAF’s involvement. Its peacekeeping-related activities fall under two main categories: unit-based

peacekeeping operations and personnel-based international monitoring missions.

Unit-Based Peacekeeping Operations

The terrorism, which was formed by the asymmetric threat from two polar word of Cold War era, and spreading of the weapons of mass destruction put foreground regional crisis and conflicts; at this range there had been a slight increase in the missions of supporting peace. In this context, the missions for protecting peace of TAF (Turkish Armed Forces) was collected together in two main categories as union based peace protection movements and personnel based international observation missions.

The TAF's first contribution to protecting world peace took place in 1950, when it sent a brigade-level unit of 15, 000 soldiers to the Korean War. Since the early 1990s, the TAF has participated in many other operations. In the Balkans, it participated in Bosnia by sending airplanes, ships, and up to a 1, 450-person regiment unit and a brigade-level force; in Kosovo, with F-16s, tanker aircraft, and a mechanized unit; in Macedonia, with gendarme and police forces; and in Albania, with an infantry battalion. The TAF contributed to the humanitarian aid efforts following Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. In the broader Middle East, its role has included involvement in:

United Nations Observer Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM)

A 300-personnel mechanized unit was sent to help the humanitarian aid and peacekeeping operation between January 1993 and February 1994. Also, its command was for a certain period undertaken by a Turkish lieutenant general.

International Security and Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF)

The operation that Türkiye has contributed to most since the September 11 attacks is the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF), established in Kabul in January 2002 to secure Afghanistan's administration. The TAF contributed to the first phase of this operation, ISAF-I, with a force of 267 personnel as well as vehicles and weapons. In addition, the TAF donated uniforms to the newly formed Afghan military. In June 2002, the leadership of ISAF-II and the administration of the Kabul airport were undertaken by the TAF, with 1,400 personnel. After leading ISAF-II, Türkiye contributed personnel to ISAF-III and ISAF-IV. A Turkish civilian administrator, former Turkish foreign minister Hikmet Cetin, was assigned to head the NATO operation in 2003. The TAF supported ISAF-V and ISAF-VI with 254 personnel and, during ISAF-V, with three helicopters. The TAF has since led ISAF-VII with 1, 450 personnel, becoming the only military to lead ISAF twice. The TAF continues to support NATO's operations, which since October 2006 have expanded to cover all of Afghanistan.

United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

The TAF's participation in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is its second-biggest commitment to Middle East peacekeeping after ISAF. During summer 2006, the UN Security Council increased UNIFIL forces to support and escort the Lebanese Armed Forces to Southern Lebanon, secure aid to civilians, and ensure the return of refugees to their homes. The TAF supports UNIFIL with 525 personnel made up of both army and naval elements. The assigned units are still working toward the rebuilding of Lebanon and the security of its populace.

Personnel-Based International Monitoring Missions

Türkiye sent military inspectors to the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group in 1988-1991, following the Iran-Iraq war; the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission in 1991-2003, following the Gulf Operation; the OSCE Kosovo Inspection Mission in 1999; the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor in 2000-2004; and the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2001-2002.

Türkiye has assigned military monitoring personnel to the UN Observer Mission in Georgia since 1994, the OSCE Mission to Georgia on the Georgia-Russia (Chechnya) border since 2000, the International Police Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 2001, and the UN Mission in Sudan since 2005.

In the Middle East, Turkey has sent inspectors to the Temporary International Presence in the City of Hebron (TIPH) since 1997. TIPH was established in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 904 to inspect and report on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the city of Hebron in the West Bank and the handing over of the area to the Palestinian Authority in 1994. In 1997, the TAF started sending inspectors to Hebron on the request of both sides. Five officers and a foreign ministry representative currently serve in the area.

Turkey's Role in Other International Initiatives

Türkiye also contributes to resolving crises and reducing tensions by leading or taking part in international formations in its region. In this scope, Turkey helped initiate the creation of the Southeastern Europe Multinational Peace Force in 1998 to maintain peace and stability in the Balkans, as well as the Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group, founded in 2001 to support the peace and security of countries in the Black Sea region.

To this day, Türkiye has supported initiatives –both on an individual and regional basis– toward disarmament, weapons control, and increased security measures. Despite limited resources, Türkiye continues to support peace and stability under the Partnership for Peace Program (PPP). Turkey makes an effort to share its experiences with the countries of the Balkans, Caucasus, Eurasia, and Central Asia. The TAF continues to support centers of excellence that have

come forward as a part of the new NATO concept. In this scope, the PfP Training Center and the Center of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism were opened in 2005 in Ankara, and the Center of Excellence Tactical Air Training was activated in 2006 in Konya.

The Need For Common Movement in Challenging Asymmetric Threat

Even though the major part of the countries of west world were noncommittal in voting against United Nations decision entitled as Human Rights and Terrorism dated 17 April 1998, it is meaningful that they understood that the terrorism, reached advanced level of today by settling in democracies and benefiting from its laws, is an act towards destroying human rights and fundamental freedoms and democracy. The integration of USA public opinion, which the whole media support, with the problem provided the belief that there is a need for forming common struggle platform under the UN roof in challenging with the asymmetric threat of the independant world. By this way, an agreement in one of the most important elements and exit point of the problem was ensured. But, in this point, in forming the legal framework of the problem, it must be mentioned that, UN agreements, which was developped in the framework of the democratic country norms depending on terrorist incidents happened in the historical process, are not deterrent and effective solving the problem. According to every single incident happened in the scope of international struggle for terrorism, it can be seen that the agreements, which have been developped since 1963, not only cannot solve the whole incidents, but also will stay behind the incidents. Against the international terrorism, which rejuvenates itself with the new practices everyday, the UN decision "The Precautions For Eliminating International Terrorism" which was dated 09 December 1994 is not effective and deterrent. It is believed that there is a need for passing to an international legal setting that whole members connected to UN, which is effective and have a strong sanction power, come together. It is need that the not only the legal settings, which will be done, should be international dimension, but also their own law system of the countries which support international terrorism should be changed. For example, in the introduction part of the constitution of Iran which was accepted in 1979, it is recorded that "Iranian army will conduct an expedition in the name of God till there is a Law of God in all countries." Also in the regime export parallel, it is said that "Forming a regime which is relied on Islam in Muslim countries and struggling toward this is the main target of the Islamic Republic of Iran." Another subject that should be emphasized is that, state supported terrorism which uses the terrorist as instruments for the satisfaction of their own public opinions, for their own benefits, should be stopped at any costs. There are also countries which don't accept the war againts terror as an instrument and stay uncommitted at this subject next to the states which support countries. Another important subject is that the countries which cleary support terrorism neither recognised as countries which support terrorism nor criticised in the name of

political benefits and worries. In struggling against terrorism, political benefits and worries should be put aside and should have been act with common sense. In this context, the countries which supports terrorism should be pursued fussily and they should be isolated with the other world.

CONCLUSION

Turkish Republic which not only participating in peace initiatives particularly after the end of Cold War, but also leading, have been an inspiration source for countries to contribute to future peace force movements. For this reason, Turkish Armed Forces has participated in every organisation not only to protect its own country, but also to contribute to world peace. But, it should't be forgotten that, there is a need for forming a common struggle platform under the United Nations roof in the war of international asymmetric threat. Terrorism shouldn't be compensated at any form or at any costs. It is believed that by making changes in world countries own law systems, transition to a common legal setting that is accepted by whole member countries to UN, is needed.

The peace initiatives Turkey has contributed to and led, especially since the end of the Cold War, should be seen both as instruments of diplomacy and a source of inspiration for Middle Eastern countries that might consider contributing to future peace force operations.

Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's phrase, "**Peace at Home, Peace in the World**" uttered seventy years ago, summarizes the TAF's point of view on peace keeping operations. The TAF will continue to support world peace with increased focus on the Middle East, where its interests have intensified throughtout our globe loyal.