



Senior YPG Commander Killed in Northern Syria as Turkey Continues Cross-Border Operations

Description

TURKEY : A senior commander in the Kurdish People's Defense Units (YPG) was reportedly killed by an IED explosion against his vehicle on April 15 in the Kurdish-controlled Hasakah area of northern Syria.

Heval Sores was a high-value target amongst other senior leaders of the group which Ankara regards as organically and operationally connected to the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), the latter being a designated terrorist organisation by Turkey, the US and the EU among others.

His killing follows a series of targeted assassinations against high-level Kurdish commanders of the YPG, amongst which the killing of the YPG's commander in Syria's Kurdish-majority city of Kobani (Ayn al-Arab) in a drone strike executed by Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) has been the most notable.

Reports by Turkish state media suggest that Turkish forces neutralised "3 PKK/YPG terrorists" in northern Syria, while an additional 16 PKK members were targeted in northern Iraq as part of continuing airstrikes since October 2023 in northern Iraq's regions of Metina, Gara, Hakurk, Qandil and Asos.

"Our heroic Turkish Armed Forces continue their operations against PKK / YPG terrorists in the north of Syria. 3 PKK / YPG terrorists, who were preparing for an attack in the Euphrates Shield region, were neutralized by Mehmetçik." – Turkey's Ministry of National Defense.

The air campaign came in response to a suicide bombing attack against Turkey's Ministry of Internal Affairs in Ankara on October 1, 2023, for which the PKK claimed responsibility.

Cross-border operations continue in both northern Iraq and Syria as President Erdogan is expected to visit Baghdad on April 22 where he is expected to make the case for a joint counterterrorism campaign with Iraqi security forces against the PKK.

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