

Syrian Kurds declare federal region

Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Syria have declared a federal region, a move likely to further complicate UN-brokered peace talks in Geneva



SYRIA'S KURDS

Largest ethnic minority in Syria, making up more than 10 percent of prewar population of 23 million. Kurds have declared their own civil administration in three enclaves, or cantons, under their control – **Jazira**, **Kobani** and **Afrin** – known collectively as **Western Kurdistan**, or **Rojava**



DEMOCRATIC UNION PARTY (PYD)

Main Syrian Kurdish political group has been excluded from Geneva peace talks so as not to anger Turkey. Ankara views group as extension of **Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)**, which has waged decades-old insurgency for greater autonomy for Turkey's Kurds



PEOPLE'S PROTECTION UNITS (YPG)

PYD's military wing, supported by U.S. and Russia, has proved highly effective in battling militants from so-called Islamic State group. Much of Syria's border with Turkey controlled by YPG-dominated **Syrian Democratic Forces** – alliance includes Kurds, Arabs and Christians