

U.S. and Turkish plans for Syria “safe zone”

The United States and Turkey are planning to establish a safe area in northern Syria for refugees fleeing conflict in the war-torn country

Sanliurfa: Planned U.S.-Turkey joint headquarters to administer safe zone



Areas of control (as of Aug 19, 2019)

- Pro-government forces
- Jihadist-dominated opposition
- Turkish-backed opposition and Turkish military
- U.S.-backed Kurdish forces, dominated by People's Protection Units (YPG)
- So-called Islamic State militants
- ★ U.S. / coalition military base



TURKEY: Aiming for full control over strip of land extending at least 32km into Syria, with several observation posts. Wants zone to be cleared of YPG fighters, which Ankara views as terrorists. Has threatened to invade Syria if no safe zone deal is reached



U.S.: Reportedly proposing 14km-wide, two-tier zone. First 5km strip to be demilitarised and patrolled jointly with Turkish forces. Second 9km-wide corridor to be cleared of heavy weapons and patrolled solely by U.S. personnel