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The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 6200
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

24 January 2018

Dear Minister

I write regarding Turkey's recent incursion into the Afrin region in Syria's north-west.

The Greens are deeply concerned that the Turkish Government has opened a new front in Syria's civil war. Syria's population has already endured a years-long humanitarian catastrophe as a result of conflict. Turkey's actions will provoke more human suffering in one of the most stable, secure and democratic parts of Syria, and they jeopardise prospects for peace.

The attacks come after the Kurdish people in Syria have played a critical role in the Syrian civil war. They were instrumental in helping to defeat ISIS, and in helping the Yazidi people escape genocide as they fled Mount Sinjar.

Turkey's actions are a transparent effort to undermine the Kurdish people in Syria, and Australia must not turn a blind eye to its action. I urge you to condemn Turkey's actions and work with the international community to find a path to de-escalation.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale
Leader, Australian Greens



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