

Turkish operation in Syria to boost border security, says envoy

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Ambassador of Turkey to Qatar HE Fikret Özer has expressed hope that the current operation by Turkey in Syria will bolster border **security** and likely help in finding a lasting solution to the prolonged war which has claimed a large number of innocent lives in Syria.

Speaking at a press conference in Doha on Monday, the envoy said, "Our aim is to eliminate any danger that threatens Turkey and to put an end to the terrorists of PKK, PYD and YPG. The Turkish armed forces have already started doing this by neutralising around 4,000 terrorists."

The ambassador said that according to the 'Right to self-defence' article of the UN Charter, the 'Operation Peace Spring' is justifiable and de jure.

"President Erdogan spoke to the US and Russian presidents about the Turkish intentions concerning the ongoing Peace Operation. We spoke to the UN and the Secretary-General of NATO, and also delivered an oral memo to the Syrian consulate in Turkey, where we explained that 'Operation Peace Spring' is entirely intended to put an end to the terrorists and bring back the targeted area to Syrians," he said.

He added, "The operation taking place on the 411-kilometre length of Turkish borders is a direct threat to Turkey. In order to avoid any harm to civilians, we are only targeting shelters, coves and military equipment of terrorists."

About the Arab position on the ongoing operation, he said, "Unfortunately, there isn't a united position within the Arab world and we find the accusations of some of the opposing Arab countries un-explainable and unacceptable."

The ambassador, however, denied diplomatic actions against any of the countries with a clear opposition to 'Operation Peace Spring' and remained hopeful of a successful peace operation.

Without any specific timeline, the ambassador said the 'Operation Peace Spring' would continue until it achieves the declared objectives.

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