



Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP
Member of Parliament for Islington North

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
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21 January 2026

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing to you to draw your attention to the plight of Kurdish people in Syria.

You will be aware of reports of renewed fighting in Syria, a day after a ceasefire agreement was reached between the Syrian government forces and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. The ceasefire followed intense military operations driving Kurdish forces from two Aleppo neighbourhoods. More than 155,000 civilians were displaced. Further escalation risks more death, destruction and displacement.

My constituency is home to a large Kurdish community, and I have been contacted by several people who are deeply alarmed by the increasingly desperate situation. Despite its severity, the plight of Kurdish people in Syria continues to receive limited coverage in our media.

Recent military advances by Syrian government forces, coordinated with Turkey, have led to a renewal of the prospects of civil war and the persecution of minority groups. Human rights organisations have raised serious concerns about arbitrary arrests, disappearances, extrajudicial executions, reprisals against civilians and attacks on civilian infrastructure.

The Kurdish people have long been denied their right to self-determination. The Kurdish people, estimated to number around 40 million altogether, are one of the largest ethnic groups in the world without their own recognised country. As you may know, I have been a longstanding supporter of Kurdish self-determination, democracy and freedom. It is crucial that we all recognise the right of Kurdish people in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey and beyond to decide their own future.



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I am therefore writing to ask you if your government will:

- Support inclusive negotiations between Syrian authorities and Kurdish representatives aimed at an immediate ceasefire;
- Demand concrete protections for civilians and minorities, including safeguards against reprisals and forced displacement;
- Advocate for the constitutional recognition of Kurdish identity, language and local self-government;
- Back independent monitoring mechanisms to oversee ceasefire arrangements and document human rights abuses.

After more than a decade of war, all Syrians deserve lasting peace. The UK government must do everything it can to prevent further loss of life, uphold international law, and support a peaceful settlement rooted in justice, equality and political inclusion.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Jeremy Corbyn MP
Independent MP for Islington North