

Iran, Russia, Turkey slam continuing Israeli military attacks in Syria including civilian infrastructures

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President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a joint statement slammed continuing Israeli military attacks in Syria including civilian infrastructures.

"Condemned the continuing Israeli military attacks in Syria including civilian infrastructures. Considered it as violating the international law, international humanitarian law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, and recognized it as destabilizing and intensifying the tension in the region. Reaffirmed the necessity to abide by universally recognized international legal decisions, including those provisions of the relevant UN resolutions rejecting the occupation of Syrian Golan, first and foremost UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 497 which also consider all decisions and measures taken by Israel in this regard null and void and have no legal effect," the statement reads.

The full text of the Joint Statement is as follows:

The Presidents:

1. *Discussed* the current situation on the ground in Syria, *reviewed* the developments following the last virtual summit on 1 July 2020 and *reiterated* their determination to enhance the trilateral coordination in light of their agreements as well as the conclusions of foreign ministers and representatives' meetings. Also, *examined* the latest international and regional developments and *emphasized* the leading role of the Astana Process in peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Syrian crisis;

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2. *Emphasized* their unwavering commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic as well as to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. *Highlighted* that these principles should be universally respected and that no actions, no matter by whom they were undertaken should undermine them;

3. *Expressed* their determination to continue working together to combat terrorism in all forms and manifestations. *Condemned* increased presence and activities of terrorist groups and their affiliates under different names in various parts of Syria, including the attacks targeting civilian facilities, which result in loss of innocent lives. *Highlighted* the necessity to fully implement all arrangements related to the north of Syria;

4. *Rejected* all attempts to create new realities on the ground under the pretext of combating terrorism, including illegitimate self-rule initiatives, and *expressed* their determination to stand against separatist agendas aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria as well as threatening the national security of neighboring countries including through cross-border attacks and infiltrations;

5. *Discussed* the situation in the north of Syria, *emphasized* that security and stability in this region can only be achieved on the basis of preservation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and *decided* to coordinate their efforts to this end. *Expressed* their opposition to the illegal seizure and transfer of oil revenues that should belong to Syria;

6. *Reaffirmed* the determination to continue their ongoing cooperation in order to ultimately eliminate terrorist individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, while ensuring the protection of the civilians and civilian infrastructure in accordance with the international humanitarian law;

7. *Reviewed* in detail the situation in the Idlib de-escalation area and *underscored* the necessity to maintain calm on the ground by fully implementing all agreements on Idlib. *Expressed* their serious concern over the presence and activities of terrorist groups that pose threat to civilians inside and outside the Idlib de-escalation area. *Agreed* to make further efforts to ensure sustainable normalization of the situation in and around the Idlib de-escalation area, including the humanitarian situation;

8. *Expressed* grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Syria and *rejected* all unilateral sanctions which are in contravention of international law, international humanitarian law and the UN Charter including, among other things, any discriminatory measures through waivers for certain regions which could lead to this country's disintegration by assisting separatist agendas. In this regard, *called upon* the international community, particularly the UN and its humanitarian agencies and other governmental/non-governmental international institutions to increase their assistance to all Syrians without discrimination, politicization and preconditions and in a more transparent manner;

9. *Reaffirmed* their conviction that there could be no military solution to the Syrian conflict and that it could only be resolved through the Syrian-led and Syrian-owned, UN-facilitated political process in line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2254. *Emphasized* in this regard the important role of the Constitutional Committee, created as a result of the decisive contribution of the Astana guarantors and the implementation of the decisions of the Syrian National Dialogue Congress in Sochi.

Reaffirmed the readiness to support the continuous interactions with its members and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen as facilitator, in order to ensure the sustainable and effective work of the next sessions of the Constitutional Committee. *Expressed* the conviction that the Committee in its work should respect the Terms of Reference and Core Rules of Procedure to enable the Committee to implement its mandate of preparing and drafting for popular approval a constitutional reform as well as achieving progress in its work and be governed by a sense of compromise and constructive engagement without foreign

interference and externally imposed timelines aimed at reaching general agreement of its members. Underlined the necessity that it should conduct its activities without any bureaucratic and logistical hindrances;

10. *Reaffirmed* their determination to continue operations on mutual release of detainees/abductees within the framework of the respective Working Group of the Astana format. *Underscored* that the Working Group was a unique mechanism that had proved to be effective and necessary for building confidence between the Syrian parties, and *decided* to further continue its work on the release of detainees and abductees and expand its operations in line with its mandate on the handover of bodies and identifications of missing persons;

11. *Highlighted* the need to facilitate safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Syria, ensuring their right to return and right to be supported. In this regard, they *called upon* the international community to provide appropriate contributions for their resettlement and normal life as well as to undertake greater responsibility in burden-sharing and to enhance their assistance to Syria, inter alia by developing early recovery projects, including basic infrastructure assets especially – water, electricity, sanitation, health, educations, schools, hospitals and etc as well as the humanitarian mine action in accordance with international humanitarian law;

12. Condemned the continuing Israeli military attacks in Syria including civilian infrastructures. *Considered* it as violating the international law, international humanitarian law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, and *recognized* it as destabilizing and intensifying the tension in the region. *Reaffirmed* the necessity to abide by universally recognized international legal decisions, including those provisions of the relevant UN resolutions rejecting the occupation of Syrian Golan, first and foremost UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 497 which also consider all decisions and measures taken by Israel in this regard null and void and have no legal effect;

13. In addition to the Syrian issue, they confirmed their intention to strengthen trilateral coordination in different fields in order to promote joint political and economic cooperation;

14. *Agreed* to assign their representatives with the task of holding the 19th International Meeting on Syria in the Astana format by the end of 2022;

15. *Decided* to hold the next Tripartite Summit in the Russian Federation upon the invitation of President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Vladimir Putin;

16. The Presidents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Türkiye *expressed* their sincere gratitude to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi for graciously hosting the Tripartite Summit within the framework of Astana format in Tehran.

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