



Difficulties, Costs and Risks of Establishing a Secure Zone in Syria for Turkey and an Alternative

Abstract: Turkey wants to establish a “secure zone” inside Syrian border to push back and protect itself against PKK. US wants a “buffer zone” which, in effect, will protect PKK from Turkey. Another possibility is PKK making a deal with Damascus. A unilateral Turkish move will have considerable difficulties, costs and risks. Buffer zone and PKK-Assad deal may come in very different shapes. It may be better for Ankara to use its credible threat of force to shape these other two alternatives to its interests. It is not easy, nor cost-free and clean-cut but it may still be better than confronting all the important actors with a risky move.

Full text in Turkish: <http://www.qafsam.org/page/598/az>