

Danish parties alarmed by US Syria withdrawal

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Body

Excerpt from report in English by website of Danish English-language newspaper The Copenhagen Post on 8 October

[Report by *Thess Mostoles*: "Denmark wary of Trump's withdrawal from Syria"]

Foreign Policy Committee calls on foreign minister to react

The news of US president Donald Trump's decision to withdraw American forces from wartorn Syria has reverberated down through the halls of Christiansborg [seat of parliament] in Denmark.

The prospect of the US opening the path for Turkey to mount an assault on Kurdish positions in northern Syria has sent several members of the Foreign Policy Committee scampering to urge the foreign minister, Jeppe Kofod, to react.

MPs from Venstre [Liberal Party], Socialistisk Folkeparti [Socialist People's Party], Enhedslisten [Unity List] and Alternativet [the Alternative] have all called for an emergency session in the Foreign Policy Committee tomorrow to address the issue.

"It looks like the Kurds, who have been our friends and allies in the battle against Islamic State [IS] [ISIS; previous bracket inserted by Danish editor], are now being abandoned by Donald Trump. I think that's extremely worrying, if that means president Erdogan of Turkey now begins to massacre our Kurdish allies," Michael Aastrup Jensen, Venstre's spokesperson on foreign affairs issues, told [public broadcaster] DR Nyheder [news].

Committee committed

Others contend that move threatens the IS prisoner situation, with Enhedslisten fearing that leaving them to Turkey could ultimately lead to their untimely release.

The many concerns were supported by the chair of the Foreign Policy Committee, Martin Lidegaard, who said it was important to gather support against Trump's decision.

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"Very shocking message from Trump: The US leaving northern Syria to Turkey, apparently without allied consensus - A massive let down of the Kurds with incalculable consequences for an endgame in Syria and in regards to the handling of captured Syria fighters," Lidegaard wrote on Twitter.

[Passage omitted on general situation in northern Syria]

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