

WATER CONFLICTS IN NORTHERN SYRIA

Sinan Uzundumlu
Oğuzhan Akyener

INTRODUCTION

Water although usually is not considered as the most important fluid in the public view, its importance and staminality can easily be understood during the privation. In today's world, while some regions have plenty of water, in the other side, some parts are being lack of it.

As mentioned above, the importance of water can be understood, while losing it. Then water becomes one of the most strategic items for countries, when there is a risk of drought.

Turkey is one of the luckiest countries having plenty of fresh water resources. And some of its resources are huge rives flowing to the neighbor countries.

Euphrates is one of them. It has more than 2800 km's length and nearly 1 tones per second flow rate. It flows from Turkey to Northern Syria. To control the river, Turkey has Atatürk Dam in its borders. And in Syria there are Tishrin and Euphrates Dams in the entrance of the lake. There are many conflicts experienced between Syria and Turkey related with the utilization and flow rate homogeneity of the river.

Currently, in the international public view, a new unfair perceptional operation is tried to be activated against Turkey, which claims that:

- Turkey has cut the Euphrates and all the Northern innocent Syrians are left in a situation of being lack of water.
- They are snatching to death due not to be able to reach drinking water.
- Turkey is delinquent according to the 64/292 numbered decision of UN Resolution Agreement

However, these accusations are directed and organized/financed by some dirty enemies of the humanity and the peace. And they are all unfair perceptions.

In this study, the situation of the current due dynamics in the region will be described and by evaluating the due UN resolution, accusations among the Turkey will be rebutted.

EUPHARATES

The Euphrates which originates from Turkey and extends from Syria to Iraq is defined as one of the most important fresh water resources for both Turkey and Syria. In the Turkish side, Ataturk Dam and Northern Syria side Tishrin and Euphrates Dams are used for the water accumulation, distribution, purification, irrigation and electricity generation. Both dams are on the same branch of Euphrates.



Map1: 2 Lakes and Dams on Euphrates (Source: Google maps)

Both dams and the dam lakes can be observed in the map above.

Ataturk Dam in Turkey, Tishrin and Euphrates Dams in North Syria are used as water and electricity source in the region. But the due to the ongoing civil war in Syria, the Tishrin and Euphrates dams have been seized by terrorist organizations and are not working efficiently.

However, as easily can be understood from the map above, although there occurs an unexpected regime/flow rate change in the Euphrates due to Turkey, this will not result in being lack of drinking water in the regional society. Hence, there is a huge fresh lake existing in the region. If there is a cut in the utilization / drinking water in the Northern Syria, this question has to be diverted to the due terrorist organizations PYD&YPG&P-KK acting and US & Russia governments, which are supporting those terrorists in the region.

UTILIZATION AGREEMENT

Naturally, as can be expected, there is an existing water utilization agreement with Syrian and Turkish Governments. However, at present, there is no presence of the Syrian Government in the region for Turkey to get interlocutor.

On the contrary, the dam is being managed by the terrorist organization YPG.

Although there is a terrorist control on due water resources, Turkey did not completely cut the water for the innocents not to be faced with more persecution in addition to existing

PYD/ YPG ACCUSATIONS

By filling the management gap in the region, these terrorist organizations that occupy the land in Syria can't produce electricity because of the irregular flow rate due to irregularities occurred by some technical problems in Turkish side.

Due to this irregular regime, some of the terrorist activities they engage cannot easily be operated and hobbled. At the same time, due to this irregularity, the public living in the region is also experiencing difficulties in providing electricity and experiencing unrests. This situation also hurts the dominance of the Kurds, where they are ethnically minority in the region.

In addition, they are trying to create the perception in the international public opinion that Turkey doesn't serve water to the region and the people living in the region are dehydrated because of the lack of drinking water.

Many Western think-tanks that feeding hostility Turks and Islam, are also supporting this perceptual operation without looking at any maps or evaluating any objective sources of the region and blaming Turkey for violating the UN's relevant laws.

DUE UN RESOLUTIONS

Turkey is being accused because of the 64/292 numbered decision of UN Resolution Agreement. However, this decision merely states that drinking water is a vital human right, and the countries which have drinking water troubles should be supported in this respect. Through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights. The Resolution calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources help capacity-building and technology transfer to help countries, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

So, while evaluating this situation according to the due UN Resolution:

As can be understood above, the accusations are completely unfair and inconsistent. Because;

- There is not a government managing the region, the region is in the control of terrorist organizations.
- Even if there is a state of affairs in the region, there is no question that people suffering from even drinking water, daily use water. Because there is Tishrin Dam in the same branch with Euphrates River in the region. And the capacity of the relevant dam is sufficient for the people living there. The water shortage is likely to be experienced only due to problems with the internal distribution and transportation systems. Presuming responsible Turkey for internal distribution and transportation of water would be a ridiculous approach, surely.
- The PYD / YPG terror organizations those blaming Turkey are not only

presenting these claims, but they also cause water problems to the people of the region. The water going from the Euphrates Dam to Aleppo, which is the continuation of the Tishrin dam, was cut by these terrorist organizations. And as a result, the people of Aleppo are suffering from both water shortages and electricity shortages in the region.

- The due UN's decision has no relevance to the issue.
- Changes in water flow depend on various factors such as time, technical conditions, amount of rainfall in the region, occupancy rate of Atatürk Dam, and it does not prevent the maintenance of vital activities in the region.

WHY BLAMING TURKEY?

Turkey, which is the sole dominant State in the region with its large global targets, has been only hope of the oppressed people living in the Middle East as in the past, and has conquering the hearts of the people in the region after the operations to the terror organizations.

The increasing influence and activity of Turkey with its global targets, which will not allow neither any terrorist organization in the region nor any oppression of the game builders that terrorists rely on, is the main reason for all these unjust operations. The new Turkey, which has become stronger and independent with its globally huge aims, is continuing to attract the hate of the Western tyrants and subcontractors in the region.

But, as it was before, Turkey with its justice will be victorious in spite of all black plans in the region.

RESULTS

In recent years, Turkey's more influential policies in the Middle East, and its operations in northern Iraq and northern Syria to DAES and YPG / PYD terror organizations, have been extremely disturbing the Western imperialists. As a result of this, many allegations against Turkey have been put forward and different perception operations have been made and implemented in order to impose this on the international public opinion.

These perceptual operations have sometimes been successful and sometimes frustrated. The perception that has recently been woken up by social media and other media, which is trying to resonate in the international public opinion, is that Turkey has left the people living in northern Syria without water.

However, this is not realistic.

In this paper, the dynamics in the Northern Syria and the situation of the utilization of the water resources of Euphrates River has shortly tried to be described.

As can be understood, in this water crisis in the Northern Syria, the real side to put the blame on is the terrorists and their Western supporters in the region. Not Turkey!

Hope for the international public views to be honest and be able to think more clearly and scientific.