



[Trump's Plan to Arm Kurdish Forces to Start a Ground War in Iran Sparks Fears of an Expanded and Protracted Conflict](#)

The reported plan by the Trump administration to arm Kurdish forces to initiate a ground campaign against the Iranian government has sparked profound alarm among military analysts, regional neighbors, and other observers. The move severely risks bringing about an expanded and protracted conflict through the likelihood of it causing regional spillover and leading to a more chaotic and unpredictable political landscape – both within Iran and across the region. One of the foremost concerns is that a Kurdish-led ground war would not remain contained within Iran's borders and instead create a spillover effect that threatens the stability of neighboring countries like Iraq and Turkey. Ankara is likely to view any emboldened Kurdish military movement as a threat to its own stability and thus, if Kurdish forces make significant gains in Iran, Turkey could very well be dragged into an expanded conflict. Additionally, since many Kurdish groups have a foothold in northern Iraq, a full-scale U.S. arming of Kurdish forces to carry out a ground operation in Iran would almost certainly turn Iraq into a primary battlefield for a broadened war.

There are substantial risks within Iran itself, as experts fear that arming groups to try to topple a centralized government is a recipe for protracted civil unrest, rather than some type of straightforward transition of power. Since Iran is a widely diverse political landscape, arming Kurdish groups could also lead to further instability and state fragmentation by spurring other groups like the Baluchs in the southeast or the Azeris in the northwest to take up arms. Iran's large population and rugged terrain mean that an expanded conflict there would be extremely difficult to contain as well, potentially creating a major humanitarian and refugee crisis. The Iranian government has already initiated drone and missile strikes against Kurdish bases in Iraq and analysts fear that if the United States triggers an internal uprising, Tehran will escalate its asymmetric attacks against American bases and assets across the region. This risks further dragging the U.S. into a prolonged conflict with no exit strategy.

The idea of the Trump administration arming Kurdish forces to initiate a ground war in Iran on behalf of the United States has the potential for catastrophic regional blowback. The geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East strongly suggest that such a move is more than likely to result in prolonged instability and devastating unintended consequences. By specifically arming Kurdish forces, the United States risks turning what should be an organic domestic

movement for reform from within Iran into a narrow ethnic-based conflict. This could elicit unrest among much of the country's population, who would understandably view the insurgency as a foreign-backed separatist threat rather than some type of genuine liberation movement. Thus, the most likely scenario to come out of this would be a fractured state engulfed in protracted domestic unrest as opposed to a seamless transition of power. Ultimately, external military intervention – especially via proxy forces – often produces a nationalist backlash and therefore even Iranians who are highly critical of their government may unite in defense of their sovereignty against what they perceive as foreign meddling. Evidence suggests that such harmful interventions normally strengthen the most hardline elements of a government, allowing them to frame internal dissent as foreign-inspired and thereby seeking to justify brutal domestic crackdowns.

For all of these reasons, most observers agree that the Trump administration arming Kurdish factions to initiate a ground war in Iran is a highly dangerous and destructive endeavor. It risks transforming an already volatile conflict into an expanded war that will further destabilize the region at large. The move would likely prompt a military response from Turkey and also serve to undermine the sovereignty of Iraq – where many of these groups are based. It would be viewed as a direct foreign-backed intervention that could repeat the disastrous cycles of past endless wars and entangle the United States into a protracted ground conflict. By supporting armed ground forces, the Trump administration would be expanding its engagement in the conflict. This interventionist approach would entrench U.S. involvement and increase the likelihood of deploying American boots on the ground – a dreaded scenario that puts U.S. service members directly in harm's way for an expanded and protracted conflict with no clear end in sight.