

## Right of Kurdish People to freedom and justice

A Statement adopted by the South African Parliament on 27 March 2018

The African National Congress recognises that the Skyes-Picot agreement in redrawing the map of the Middle East failed to take into account the geopolitical reality on the ground. It has resulted in the erasing of the Kurdish territory on the revised Map. The Kurdish people have a right to freedom, justice and equality. The civil wars in Iraq and Syria, and the rise of ISIS are the legacy of the redrawn maps. Kurdish people have paid a high price to stop ISIS. The ANC is concerned that Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdish people remains incarcerated on the island of Imrali and is denied any contact with legal representatives and family for more than 3 years, and the recent spate of detentions of democratically elected Kurdish leaders by Turkey.

We support democracy in Rojava and the advance of women's rights and we condemn the breaches of International Law in the war against the people of Afrin. We call on Turkey to comply with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2401, unanimously adopted on 24 February 2018 for a nationwide ceasefire in Syria for 30 days, including Afrin. We also call upon all parties to respect the international instruments which prohibit the targeting of civilians during war. NATO should compel Turkey to seek a peaceful resolution in Turkey and Afrin for the just attainment of peace for all people. Turkey should respect the integrity of another country and should immediately withdraw from the occupation of Afrin. Finally we urge Turkey and the Syrian Government to seek peaceful resolutions to the conflict.