

## **TWI Series on Syrian Safe Havens/Zones**

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Understand the policy implications of humanitarian safe havens, safe zones, buffers, or no-fly zones in Syria with these assessments of the who, what, where, why, and how of the various options.

### **[Intervention to Assist Fleeing Syrians: Who, What, Where, Why, and How](#)**

[\*Col. Nora Marcos\*](#)

Establishing humanitarian corridors, safe havens, safe zones, or buffer or no-fly zones could turn the tide of Syria's humanitarian crisis, but it could also pose numerous complications and create second- and third-order effects for the region.

### **[Establishing and Securing Safe Zones in Syria: Historical Lessons](#)**

[\*John Barnett\*](#) and [\*Michael Eisenstadt\*](#)

Experience in Iraq, Bosnia, and Libya shows that safe-zone operations require unambiguous legal authorities, clear political and military guidance, robust air and ground forces, and a viable plan for displaced persons and refugees.

### **[The Israeli Perspective on Safe Zones in Syria](#)**

[\*Nadav Pollak\*](#)

Despite the potential benefits of a safe zone along the Jordan-Syria border, Russia's presence in the war would probably limit Israel's ability to openly support or contribute to such an initiative.

### **[A Safe Zone in Southern Syria](#)**

[\*David Schenker\*](#) and [\*Andrew J. Tabler\*](#)

As the Assad coalition and the Islamic State turn their attention southward, Jordan and the thousands of displaced Syrians waiting outside its border face an increasingly perilous security situation.

### **[How to Prevent al-Qaeda from Seizing a Safe Zone in Northwestern Syria](#)**

[\*Fabrice Balanche\*](#)

Strong ground support for moderate rebels would be needed to keep any buffer zone in the northwest from falling under the control of al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate.

### **[Kerry Neither Rules Out nor Supports Safe Zone Concept](#)**

[\*James F. Jeffrey\*](#)

The assertion that such an effort would require up to 30,000 U.S. troops, and that it could risk a direct confrontation with Russia, requires a much closer look.

### **[Two Potential Safe Zones in Northern Syria](#)**

[\*Fabrice Balanche\*](#)

Both Idlib province and eastern Aleppo province have been relatively spared from the fighting, and their rural communities remain strong.

### **[The First Step Should Be to Create Buffer Zones in Syria](#)**

[\*Andrew J. Tabler\*](#)

Any safe zones would need to be secured by the military forces of Syria's neighbors, such as Turkey and Jordan, as well as by U.S. air and ground support.

### **[Safety First in Syria](#)**

[\*Anna Borshchevskaya\*](#)

However difficult it might be to implement safe zones after years of inaction, the humanitarian disaster will only grow without them, as will the threat to regional and European stability.

## **[A Turkish 'Secure Strip' in Syria: Domestic Concerns and Foreign Limitations](#)**

*[Soner Cagaptay](#) and [Cem Yolbulan](#)*

Although Ankara has the necessary parliamentary authorization and professional military capacity to establish a safe zone, it would still need Western intelligence help, air support, and diplomatic backing to cover the operation and deter Russian retaliation.

## **[Legal Justifications for a Safe Zone in Syria](#)**

*[James F. Jeffrey](#)*

UN Security Council Resolutions 2170, 2249, and 2254 offer ample grounds for establishing a zone to protect refugees and counter the Islamic State, but shaping the international diplomatic response would be paramount given the legal gray areas inherent in such action.

## **[Countering Russian and Assad Regime Responses to Safe Zones](#)**

*[Anna Borshchevskaya](#)*

For such zones to succeed, they must be backed with militarily enforced no-fly zones and a persuasive response to Moscow's inevitable small-scale violations and disinformation campaign.

## **[The Diplomatic Case for America to Create a Safe Zone in Syria](#)**

*[Nicholas Burns](#) and [James F. Jeffrey](#)*

The potential risks of inaction -- including thousands more civilians killed, millions more refugees, the spillover of fighting into Turkey, Jordan, and Israel, and a Russian-Iranian military victory -- greatly outweigh the dangers of moving forward.