



American Hellenic Institute

July 21, 2020



Dear Friend and Supporter of AHI:

Quite frankly, I am angry and upset as I write this urgent letter.

Please do not put my letter aside...it is important that every AHI member and supporter read this letter and join in a unified response to this emergency situation.

Today, Turkey announced that, from July 21 through August 2, 2020, it will conduct a seismic survey off the coast of the Greek island complex of Kastellorizo in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

This is an act of great aggression...because **this island complex is sovereign Greek territory.**

In addition, there are reportedly at least 15, and potentially as many as 25, Turkish navy vessels which have been mobilized in the area. In response, Greece has placed its armed forces on high alert.

My friend, I am angry that once again, Turkey is violating international law, however, this act is one of the most aggressive acts in Turkey's long history of aggression because military assets are massing and wars have started this way!

But I am upset because while our State Department's initial response to Turkey's violation of Greece's continental shelf urged Turkish authorities to halt any plans for operations and to avoid steps that raise tensions... **this initial response also stated that Greece's maritime rights are "disputed waters" to which AHI objects vehemently.**

I am sure that you are as outraged as I am, that the State Department did not flat-out condemn Turkey's action.

You and I both know that when the United States does not publicly condemn Turkey, that it appeases Turkey and serves to embolden Turkey to engage in these provocative acts.

President Trump must immediately condemn this violation of the Greek continental shelf and demand that Turkey cease and desist from this aggressive act.

It is so obvious that Turkey is demonstrating that it is adverse to U.S. interests and is not an ally.

We simply must do something about this immediately. I urge you to call your Congressman and insist that Congress pass H.R.4694, United States-Turkey Relations Review Act of 2019, sponsored by U.S. Representative Adam Kinzinger (R-IL).

I also urge you to please send an emergency contribution to AHI so we can increase our legislative and advocacy efforts to fight this Turkish aggression before it leads to war.

Sincerely,

Nick Larigakis
President

P.S. Turkey's most recent aggressions are directly antithetical to the interests of the U.S. and NATO, and have produced a potential for a Defcon 2 condition between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean. Please help us respond to this urgent situation with an emergency contribution today.