# **Security Council Briefing Paper - TQO Türkiye’s Exploitation of Military Drones**

*NOTES BEFORE YOU BEGIN READING:*

* *Both resolutions and position papers are encouraged and will be taken into consideration when considering delegates for committee prizes.*
* When writing your resolutions you should consider how we can limit the use of these drones.
* *The above can be sent to* us at*gw13frasermaria@glow.sch.uk*.  *I am happy to answer any questions you may have and look forward to reading your resolutions for this topic.*
* *We will be debating in Security Council format so remember to update yourself on the rules and procedures specific to this committee (such as the permanent 5 having the right to veto).*
* *This is not a completely extensive briefing however it includes key elements and information, as much external research as you think necessary is recommended.*

Türkiye first purchased GNAT 750 drones from the USA in 1995.

Türkiye began developing and investing in drone technology in the early 2000’s and have since become one of the world’s most prominent users and exporters of military drones.

In the early 2000s Baykal started developing drone systems which marks the start of Türkiye’s drone developments as a nation. BAYRAKTAR UAV is a group of unmanned aerial vehicles designed and manufactured by this company, they have been developing these drones for the Turkish Armed Forces since 2004.

Türkiye’s drone program is mostly centered around domestically produced AUV’s, the most notable of these being produced by Baykal Defence (for example, Bayraktar Akıncı, BAYRAKTAR TB2) and TAI (for example, ANKA drones). This has helped Türkiye to:

* reduce their dependence on foreign arms and evade restrictions, especially from fellow NATO allies who are reluctant to sell high-tech weapons. This however, has led to strained relations between Türkiye and other NATO members and UN Member States, including Russia over the sale of drones to Ukraine.
* Develop a self-sufficient defence industry, which has turned them from an arms importer to an arms exporter

Türkiye has used or supplied drones in several conflicts since their development, these include:

* Syria, Turkish drones were used to help destroy Syrian regime tanks, artillery and air defences during Operation Spring Shield. This showed mid-size, relatively cheap drones could achieve air superiority in contested environments.
* Libya, TB2 drones were critical to the success of the UN-recognised Government National Accord (GNA), pushing back Haftar’s Libyan National Army (LNA). This demonstrated the use of drones in proxy warfare.
* Nagorno-Karabakh (2020), Turkish produced drones were used by Azerbaijani, with the support of Türkiye, against Armenia, these drones played a key role in targeting Armenian armour and defence systems, which shifted the balance of power drastically.

Türkiye has used their sales of drones to strengthen their bilateral ties, expand their global influence and evade geopolitical restrictions placed by Western countries. They have sold drones to countries including but not limited to;

* Ukraine,
* Azerbaijan,
* Ethiopia,
* Poland (the first NATO country to purchase their drones),
* Morocco,
* Tunisia.

The drones produced are cost effective which means that they can be purchased by ELDC’s. The Bayraktar TB2, in particular, is cheaper than the U.S. MQ-9 Reapers, easier to maintain and operate and highly effective when it is paired with smart munitions and satellite tech. This model has democratised access to drone warfare. Drones are cheaper to run than fighter jets or helicopters with decreased risks to human pilots.

These drones have led to ethical and human rights concerns due to civilian casualties, especially in Iraq and Syria. There are concerns that these drones enable authoritarian regimes via arms sales.

* These drones do not have the same precision that military weapons such as fighter jets have, this can cause civilians to be injured or killed, especially in more populated areas, for example, in Northern Iraq, Libya and Syria, Turkish drone strikes have been accused of hitting civilian infrastructure.
* It has been argued that Türkiye uses their drones to target and kill specific people, especially against alleged PKK members in cross-border operations.
* As well as this, drone strikes in Iraq and Syria often take place without the full consent of these states, which violates international law, due to the speed and distance of command it is difficult to condemn those who order these strikes.
* These concerns have led to Türkiye’s drone activities being criticised by the EU, UN and human rights organisations.

These drones have also been used for psychological warfare, e.g. constantly surveying enemy forces, disrupting logistics and lowering morale. Türkiye also uses the footage recorded by drones for propaganda and soft power, they broadcast strike videos to change public perceptions in Türkiye and abroad. Türkiye rarely publicly discloses the full details of drone operations, which makes it difficult to confirm civilian impact and investigate incidents