Ocalan Calls for Disarmament of Kurdish Fighters

ANKARA - Abdullah Ocalan, the imprisoned leader of the pro-independence Kurdish fighters in Turkey, has called on his followers to lay down their arms. A Kurdish lawmaker of the Turkish parliament on Saturday read a message from Ocalan, in which he hailed the jailed leader and declared that he and his followers would lay down their arms to seizing the strategic town of Debal-observed around the rebel-controlled city of Av.

In attacks by pro-Russian separatists in the day there had been a significant decrease in the number of sanctions that have been imposed against Russia by the European Union and the United States. The sanctions were imposed in response to Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. The European Union and the United States had imposed economic sanctions on Russia, including restrictions on trade and investment.

The sanctions have had a significant impact on the Russian economy, with GDP falling by around 1.5% in 2014 and 2015. However, Russia has managed to reduce its dependence on Western imports and has increased its exports to other regions, particularly Asia. Despite the sanctions, Russia has continued to invest in its economy, with some sectors, such as oil and gas, experiencing growth.

In addition to the economic sanctions, the United States and the European Union have also imposed visa restrictions on Russian officials and members of the Russian military. The United States has also imposed sanctions on Russian individuals and organizations that are involved in the annexation of Crimea and the support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The sanctions have been controversial, with some arguing that they have had little impact on Russia and have instead hurt the economies of the countries imposing them. Others argue that the sanctions have applied pressure on Russia to change its behavior.

In recent months, there have been signs of a thaw in relations between the United States and Russia, with talks held between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry. Both sides have indicated a willingness to find common ground on some issues, although differences remain on others.

The sanctions are likely to remain in place for the foreseeable future, with both the United States and the European Union indicating a commitment to maintaining pressure on Russia until its behavior changes. The future of the sanctions will depend on the continued efforts of the international community to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine.