

**TURKEY'S MIT INTELLIGENCE BLUNTER**  
**IN THE LEVANT AND ITS UNDISCLOSED FUTURE**

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The Turkish consulate seizure in Mosul by men of the (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) ISIL terrorist movement has unleashed a discussion inside and outside Turkey about the role of Ankara's failed strategy in the region of the Levant and Iraq. A role that was mainly based in aiding terrorist organizations like Al Nusra and ISIL for its own grand designs. Initially meant in overthrowing Bassar al Assad regime and simultaneously curtailing any Syrian Kurdish PYD (Democratic Union Party) independence ambitions in the area. By mainly denying the capability of the Syrian aspirations uniting with their KRG brothers authority of Northern Iraq or by becoming a strategic reserve of PKK in the area of Turkish Kurdistan. However, as Assad's regime proved to be a difficult target to eliminate, Ankara show fit that ISIL could be used also as a means of limiting Iranian influence in Iraq and by disrupting its supply routes into the Damascus regime. Lastly, but equally important ISIL's activity into Northern Iraq was also used

as a wedge between Bagdad and Irbil where by Turkey would benefit from becoming a major Hub of Iraqi Kurdistan's oil due to Arab and Kurdish nationalist squabbling. After all even today Bagdad and Irbil don't share the same views when it comes to Northern Iraq's oil ownership status.

Therefore this last incident with Turkey's consulate seizure in Mosul has clearly made visible to the outside forces that Ankara needs to recalibrate its geopolitical plans in the area but above all examine what went wrong with its intelligence services in the provinces of Northern Iraq. It is obvious then that MIT's undersecretary Hakan Fidan and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu must be under tremendous pressure to explain themselves to Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan in what went wrong. Knowing clearly that a foreign policy blunder might derail Erdoğan's ambitions of becoming the next president of Turkey.

Currently the Kurdish Firat News Agency and even the Turkish Hurriyet news media each for their own reasons are openly accusing the AKP government of having ties with the Terrorist insurgent (ISIL) movement.<sup>1</sup> More precisely, Firat News is openly alleging that during the fall of Fallujah by the ISIL terrorist forces, four Turkish officers were captured by the defending Iraqi Army. Prompting a CHP deputy named Sezgin Tanrıku to ask a direct parliamentary question to Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, to either accept or deny the above allegation. More specifically he inquired: if the claims that four Turkish Intelligence officers were providing military training to ISIS units have been arrested or if a retired military officer who was killed in Aleppo Syria was a senior leader of the ISIS terrorist group, hold to be true

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<sup>1</sup> "Has the Turkish Army trained ISIS in Fallujah?" 14, June, 2014, *Firat News.com*, available at: <http://en.firatajans.com/news/news/has-the-turkish-army-trained-isis-in-fallujah.htm>. See, also, "CHP lawmakers accuse Turkish government of 'protecting ISIL and al-Nusra militants'", 13, June, 2014, *Turkish Daily News*, available at: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/chp-lawmakers-accuse-turkish-government-of-protecting-isis-and-al-nusra-militants.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67750&NewsCatID=338>

and what is his name?<sup>2</sup> In harmony with Firat News, Turkish Newspaper Hurriyet is pounding the Erdoğan government by providing a picture that is dated April 16, 2014 that shows ISIL commander Abu Muhammad, allegedly receiving free treatment in Hatay's State Hospital due to injuries received during fighting in Idlib, Syria. It goes even further where directly accuses Turkish Intelligence MIT of providing as safe heavens the guesthouses of Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate (Diyanet) to the al-Qaeda splinter group namely the al-Nusra Front in the southern province of Hatay.<sup>3</sup>

As far as the first allegations, the Turkish general staff called the claims "groundless" and "unreal and denied any cooperation with ISIL in Fallujah or anywhere else in Iraq or Syria."<sup>4</sup> However, previous Turkish Intel logistical cooperation with Al Nusra units and with other Jihadist groups that fight the Syrian Baathist regime and the Syrian autonomous Rojava Kurdish enclaves dispels any Turkish good will on this matter.<sup>5</sup> Given the fact that Mosul and Kirkuk is full of MIT operatives, since Turkish foreign policy considers them important for its neo ottoman agenda, along with the presence of a substantial Turkmen minority that is used as a minority ploy

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<sup>2</sup> "Has the Turkish Army trained ISIS in Fallujah?", available at: <http://en.firatjans.com/news/news/has-the-turkish-army-trained-isis-in-fallujah.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> "CHP lawmakers accuse Turkish government of 'protecting ISIL and al-Nusra militants' available at: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/chp-lawmakers-accuse-turkish-government-of-protecting-isis-and-al-nusra-militants.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67750&NewsCatID=338>. What is more disturbing is that there are allegations and events that suggest that Turkey is also aiding logistically many Islamist movements in the world ranging from ISIL to Boko Haram. More precisely as Dr Rubin puts forward: "*[t]urkey has become has become an engine for regional instability and the promotion of radicalism. Indeed, when extremists took over northern Mali and gave al Qaeda free rein, a Turkish ambassador tweeted his endorsement of al Qaeda and condemned the French for intervening...*" Quoted from, Michael Rubin, "Did Turkey arm Boko Haram?", 13, May, 2014, [aei-ideas.org](http://www.aei-ideas.org), available at: <http://www.aei-ideas.org/2014/05/did-turkey-arm-boko-haram/>. See, also, Turkish Tweets Turn Heads" 27, February, 2014, [freebeacon.com](http://freebeacon.com), available at: <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/turkish-tweets-turn-heads/>

<sup>4</sup> "Turkey's General Staff denies arrest of Officers by ISIL", 14, June, 2014, *Daily Sabah*, available at: <http://www.dailysabah.com/nation/2014/06/14/turkish-general-staff-denies-arrest-of-officers-in-iraq>

<sup>5</sup> Turkish Intelligence (MIT) supportive position in transportation and logistical matters to Al Nusras aims in Syria became evident, when three Tunisian Al Nusra recruits caught by Kurdish PYD (Democratic Union Party) forces in the city of Efrin Asayishi admitted the latter's role into their war efforts. More precisely prisoners, Nadir Elwassani, Essabi Musa, and Yusuf Ekkari spoke about an operational team of Turkish officers codenamed IMAM that aids Al Nusra in logistical and transportation matters against PYD and Syria's armed forces. For more info on Turkey's supportive role to Al Qaida allies. See, Seyit evran, Türkiye'den El Kaide'ye tam destek, 12 July, 2013, *Firatnews.com*, available at: <http://firatnews.org/news/guncel/turkiye-den-el-kaide-ye-tam-destek.htm>

against Irbil's ambitions in the area makes the latter's clarifications insufficient. Unless, Ankara accepts its responsibilities and miscalculations on the matter, then there is nothing else that can easily dismiss Turkish direct involvement into Bagdad's affairs by supporting ISIL. The real question however is what went wrong and why?

First it is obvious that Ankara miscalculated ISIL real fighting potential vis-à-vis the Iraqi Shiite heavily armed forces that proved to be a paper tiger and secondly the thought of being easily controlled under MIT's logistical web proved them wrong. ISIL military guidance which is heavily dominated by former Sunni Iraqi officers of Saddam Hussein Army era, has displayed a capable leadership for bypassing Turkish goals thus bringing havoc into Ankara's geopolitical designs at the moment.<sup>6</sup> The speed in which Mosul fell and the capture of Turkey's consulate with its security contingent must had a tremendous effect in Genel Kurmay (Turkish General Staff) and MIT's Hakan Fidan - psyche. Knowing clearly that resistance would had been futile, they surrender without a single shot. Not believing in their eyes how the puppet eventually manipulated the puppeteer .

Since the second week of June, ISIL, has developed into a formidable force inside Syria, has extended its reach in Iraq, gaining near-complete control of the northern Iraqi city of Tikrit and seizing Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and huge amounts of America military equipment abandoned by the fleeing Iraqi army. Proving above all to be an efficient force that can adjust its aims according with its geo-strategically oriented designs. Mainly, controlling a vast area of Iraqi and Syrian land and secondly declaring a Sunni caliphate administration. However, if the latter is

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<sup>6</sup> It is ironic that Murat Yelkin, Hurriet's commentator even to put forward the motion that former Sunni Iraqi deputy Tariq al-Hashimi currently under the protection of Turkey Intelligence services from al Maliqi's wrath, is one of the few that applauded the fall of Mosul by ISIL. Therefore, implying that Ankara either miscalculated or got manipulated in its plans by the same people it protected and nourished for its own grant designs. See, "Was Turkish gov't betrayed in Iraq and Syria?" 15,June,2014, *hurriyetdailynews.com* ,available at: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/was-turkish-govt-betrayed-in-iraq-and-syria.aspx?pageID=449&nID=67770&NewsCatID=409>

going to materialize, is a different question by itself. Without political support and recognition from outside the Jihadist forces have no chance in achieving their goals. Nonetheless, what is guaranteed for sure is that Jihadism and unrest will prevail in the lands of today's Iraq, and that Iraqi Kurdistan will emerge victorious in acquiring more historical Kurdish lands like Kirkuk under its reign. Bringing it closer to its final vision of declaring independence one day from Bagdad. Now, as far as Mosul's status is concerned there is always the possibility that Turkey might intervene if a positive outcome is guaranteed by outside forces, mainly the US and the Iraqi KRG. Something that currently is not an option or on the table. But one more thing is for sure, that Iran along with Washington will become the official protectors of Bagdad's Shiite dominated government for the foreseeable future.

### **In conclusion**

As events are currently unfolding in Iraq and if sectarian violence escalates, Turkey might also face the wrath of domestic terrorism that is directly connected with Iraq's and Syrian religious sectarian violence. Seeing Jihadist groups taking their revenge on Turkey's abandonment to their cause or an Alevi Sunni dichotomy in Turkey's society as the result of Shiite Alawite mass victimization in the Middle East by the hands of Sunni extremist groups and vice versa is a plausible nightmare scenario that Ankara fears the most. In addition Saudi Arabia and the West must be under tremendous pressure watching all Islamist Foreign Fighters returning back to their European or Middle Eastern origins. Having acquired military experience that can be fused at any given moment for a jihadist motive or even nationalist cause. Daily Mirror's picture of having a Foreign Fighter holding a Kosovo Passport must have rung alarm

bells to many Balkan capitals ranging from Podgorica, Belgrade, Skopje and even Athens.<sup>7</sup> After all in Albania's educational curriculum, a nation that strives to join EU, still teaches that large amounts of Greek, Serbian FYROM and Montenegrin territories are Albanian occupied lands.<sup>8</sup> Thus the meaning of the Latin Phrase: *dictum sapienti sat est*, (enough has been said for the wise) should be sufficient for those who want to understand.

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<sup>7</sup> "This is our football, it's made of skin #World Cup': After posting sickening beheading video of Iraqi policeman, ISIS boast of slaughtering 1,700 soldiers" 14, June, 2014, *Dailymail.co.uk*, available at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2656905/ISIS-jihadists-seize-two-towns-bear-Baghdad-U-S-tanks-helicopters-stolen-fleeing-western-trained-Iraqi-forces.html>

<sup>8</sup> "Αλβανική πρόκληση: Στα σχολεία διδάσκουν ότι η Φλώρινα και η Πρέβεζα είναι δικές τους και οι «αμοισταγείς» Έλληνες έκαναν εθνοκάθαρση." 09, June, 2014, *iefimerida.gr*, available at: <http://www.iefimerida.gr/news/158538/αλβανική-πρόκληση-στα-σχολεία-διδάσκουν-ότι-η-φλώρινα-και-η-πρέβεζα-είναι-δικές-τους-και>. See, also, " Πλαστογραφούν την ιστορία τα σχολικά βιβλία στην Αλβανία.", 24, August, 2011, *proinoslogos.gr*, available at: [http://www.proinoslogos.gr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6791&catid=35](http://www.proinoslogos.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6791&catid=35). See, also, "Αλβανική περιοχή" η βόρεια Αιτωλοακαρνανία στο νέο βιβλίο "Γεωγραφία της Αλβανίας" 08, February, 2011, *AgrinioNews.gr*, available at: <http://www.agrinionews.gr/%ce%b1%ce%bb%ce%b2%ce%b1%ce%bd%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%ae-%cf%80%ce%b5%cf%81>