

# RIEAS

*RESEARCH INSTITUTE for EUROPEAN and AMERICAN STUDIES*

Athens, Greece

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## TURKEY MONITOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 9, 2018

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**Note:** The article reflects the opinion of the author and not necessarily the views of the Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS).

- [Israel to Erdogan after Jerusalem tirade: Days of Ottoman Empire are over](#)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Muslims worldwide to “defend al-Aksa,” as the government’s decision late Monday night to remove controversial metal detectors at the site did not have an immediate calming effect. Erdogan issued a blistering attack on Israel at a meeting in Turkey’s parliament of his AKP Party. “Israel has taken a dangerous path. By occupying the al-Aksa Mosque, Israel has exceeded the boundaries,” the Turkish president said, adding that Ankara recognizes “Palestine” with a capital in east Jerusalem and Israel with its capital in Tel Aviv.

- [Here’s how we can make Turkey’s president pay a price for his crackdown on journalists](#)

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey’s ruler for 15 years, has established himself as Turkey’s most consequential leader since Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the republic’s founder. But while Ataturk’s legacy was to orient Turkey toward the West and lay a foundation upon which successors could cultivate democracy, religious tolerance and a reasonably free press, Erdogan seeks the opposite: He has placed Turkey firmly in the Islamic bloc and increasingly prefers Russia over NATO. He fans the flames of religious incitement not only against Jews and Christians, but also against Muslims who reject his more conservative views.

- [Turkey's NATO Exit & the New Turkey-Russia Alliance: A Turning Point in the Global Power Structure](#)

Newsbud Roundtable presents Sibel Edmonds, James Corbett and Spiro Skouras. In this in-depth discussion Sibel and James peel back the layers and dive deep into the current events surrounding Turkey, Russia, the United States and NATO. We elaborate and provide analysis of the escalation of U.S.-Turkey relations, the new Turkey-Russia alliance, and Turkey's bold move to exit NATO. Our discussion includes the Balkans and Russia wild card, Syria, the Kurdish question, and much more.

- [Putin, Erdogan launch Turkey's first nuclear power plant](#)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin launch the construction of Turkey's first nuclear power plant in the Mediterranean Mersin region.

- [Record number of Afghan migrants reaching Eastern Turkey without papers \(RED FLAG FOR GREECE\)](#)

Nearly 20,000 undocumented Afghan migrants have arrived in Turkey over the past three months, an unprecedented number according to the latest figures from the General Directorate of Security. A total of 17,847 undocumented Afghan migrants have been captured by security forces from the beginning of 2018 until March 29. The same period has seen 9,426 Syrian migrants, 5,311 Pakistani migrants and 4,270 Iraqi migrants.

- [Turkey: Erdogan lashes out at France warning of 'more terror attacks'](#)

Recep Tayyip Erdogan has hit out at the French government for "providing support to terrorism", and appeared to refer to Saturday's vehicle attack in Germany by warning "the same will happen in France". Speaking on Saturday afternoon as the drama was still unfolding in Muenster, Turkey's President appeared to assume the attack was an act of political extremism. "You are seeing what is happening in Germany, right? The same will happen in France," he told a meeting of supporters during a visit to the southwestern province of Denizli. "The West will not be able to free itself from terror. The West will sink as it feeds these terrorists."

- [Erdoğan phones Turkish citizen in Germany](#)

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on April 8 phoned a Turkish citizen residing in Germany who had been ill-treated by police and extended get-well wishes. Yusuf Ünsal was forced to the ground and arrested by a group of German police officers while he was protesting against a demonstration on April 8 by Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) supporters in the city of Stuttgart.

- [Turkish Lira again plunges to over 4 against US dollar](#)

The Turkish Lira has once again weakened against the U.S. dollar and the euro amid worries over a trade war and a series of geopolitical and economic risks. The lira touched over 4.01 against the dollar and 4.93 against the euro early on April 4.

- [Cyprus to protest Turkey's planned nuclear power plant](#)

Cyprus says it will lodge protests over the construction of Turkey's first nuclear power plant a few dozen kilometers from the east Mediterranean island nation. Cyprus government spokesman Prodromos Prodromou said Thursday that the country's foreign ministry will spearhead protests over the plant's future operation on Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

- [Four people killed in university shooting in Turkey's Eskişehir](#)

Four people were killed by a research assistant at a university in the central Anatolian province of Eskişehir on April 5.

- [EU Minister Çelik rebukes Greek minister for his remarks over military move in Aegean Sea](#)

Turkish EU Affairs Minister Ömer Çelik has lashed out at Greek Defense Minister Panos Kammenos over his remarks regarding recent military moves in the Aegean Sea and northeast Greece. Speaking in Paris on April 5 following a meeting with France's EU Minister Nathalie Loiseau, Çelik called the Greek minister "mindless."

**Compilation: Tassos Symeonides**

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**TURKEY MONITOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**April 3, 2018**

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With escalating tensions in the Aegean, and mounting Turkish provocations aiming to create an "accident," or a [Gleiwitz incident](#), in the Archipelago or along the Greek-Turkish land frontier, as a pretext for war, RIEAS inaugurates today the TURKEY MONITOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.

The newsletter offers a collection of online news and resources on Turkey's rapidly expanding combative politics of challenging the West, threatening Greece and Cyprus, cozying up to Russia, invading Syria, threatening Iraq, demonizing Israel, befriending Iran, and giving open support to radical Islamism.

The newsletter also offers published insights on Turkey's domestic politics, the rapid expansion of authoritarian government, human rights violations, suppressing the press, and continuing repression of all those deemed supporters of Gulenism.

### **Ctl+Click to open links**

- [\*\*Putin says Russia, Turkey agreed to speed up delivery of S-400s\*\*](#)

Vladimir Putin has announced an agreement to shorten the duration of the delivery of S-400 missile systems purchased by Turkey from Russia. The Russian president made the remarks at a press conference on Tuesday with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in the Turkish capital, Ankara.

- [\*\*Turkey may hit targets outside its borders at any time: Erdoğan\*\*](#)

Turkey is capable of carrying out operations against groups it deems terrorists without any "approval" from foreign countries, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has vowed. "These days Turkey is finding terrorist organizations outside its borders and is entering their dens. They try to escape but we pursue them," Erdoğan said at an event to mark the opening of new schools in Istanbul on April 2.

- [\*\*Erdogan Accuses Kosovo PM of 'Protecting Terrorists'\*\*](#)

President Erdogan of Turkey on Sunday again condemned Kosovo's Prime Minister for firing a minister and the head of the intelligence service over the controversial deportation of six Turks to Turkey, accusing him of shielding 'terrorists'.

- [\*\*Erdogan's thugs still need to be brought to justice\*\*](#)

THE DAY before then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in February, federal prosecutors dropped criminal charges against seven members of Mr. Erdogan's security detail charged in last year's attack on peaceful protesters outside the Turkish ambassador's residence in Washington. Mr. Erdogan had long made clear he was furious about the cases, and they were one factor in tensions between the two countries. But officials said that the timing of the dismissals was purely coincidental and that there was no political pressure.

- [\*\*Greece says Turkey may be holding two soldiers for political gain\*\*](#)

Greece said on Monday that Turkey appeared to be seeking some political leverage by continuing to hold two of its soldiers without trial for a month since they crossed a land border between the two countries. The border guards were detained after crossing the frontier in a heavily forested area in north-eastern Greece in bad weather on March 1.

- [\*\*Turkey Overheating Means Race Against Time for Erdogan\*\*](#)

The Turkish economy is overheating. That could be a problem for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as much as it is for the nation's creditors. The lira is buckling under the weight of a

ballooning current-account deficit and double-digit inflation after its \$851-billion gross domestic product expanded 7.4 percent last year, faster than any other major economy. Erdogan, who's seeking to formalize effective one-man rule at an election next year, needs to make sure any turbulence doesn't thwart his chances. But signs of trouble are growing.

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**Compilation: Tassos Symeonides**