

## SHELLING FAILS TO DAMPEN SPIRITS IN TURKEY'S KILIS



Kilis province on Syrian border KILIS, Turkey (AA) - Residents of Turkey's Kilis province on Syrian border experience hardships in the aftermath of the recent shelling between Syrian PYD and Turkish army, but it does not affect their resolve to help Syrian refugees, provincial governor told Anadolu Agency. In an interview Monday, Kilis Governor Suleyman Tapsiz said the sound of artillery rounds across the border province affects residents, where now a large number of Syrian refugees live alongside Turks. >> **TURKEY**

## SOUTHEAST TURKEY TERROR VICTIMS TO GET HUMANITARIAN AID



Thousands of families in southeast Turkey who have fallen victim to PKK terrorism are being provided with humanitarian aid, a Turkish government official said Tuesday. The victims include families of martyrs. Deputy Mufti of Sırnak Province Mehmet Fatih Ozturk told reporters on Tuesday that a total of 10 trucks filled with foodstuff supplies and blankets will arrive in Sırnak Province under the framework of "Now is the time to heal wounds" campaign initiated by the Presidency of Religious Affairs and the Religious Foundation of Turkey. >> **TURKEY**

## FENERBAHCE BEATS LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW 2-0



Turkey's Fenerbahce beat Lokomotiv Moscow 2-0 in the first leg of the Europa League Round of 32 tie in Istanbul on Tuesday evening. The goals came from Brazilian midfielder Josef de Souza Dias, commonly known as Souza, in the 18th and 72nd minutes. The second leg will be played at Stadion Lokomotiv in Moscow on Feb. 25. **SPORTS**

WEATHER / ANKARA

Wednesday  
**CLOUDY**  
20°C

Thursday  
**CLOUDY**  
21°C



# ANADOLU POST

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## Venezuelan UN envoy admits mistake on Turkey remarks

### Security Council president says members did not agree on any press element expressing concern about Turkey's actions

Venezuela's UN ambassador on Tuesday walked back a statement he earlier made on behalf of the Security Council, admitting his remarks on Turkey did not reflect a consensus view by the council.

Rafael Dario Ramirez Carreno, who holds the council's February presidency, said there was no official press element agreed to by the group that expressed concern about Turkey's shelling of targets in northern Syria.

Earlier Tuesday, following closed-door discussions on the cross-border shelling, he told reporters that all 15 members of the council voiced concern about the issue and called on Turkey to abide by international law.

The meeting, which followed consultations on Yemen, had been requested by Russia, a permanent member of the council.

"The member [sic] of the Security Council expressed their [sic] concern about the Turkey's attack in the north of Syrian territory," Ramirez



had said. "We receive [sic] ... a letter from the Syrian government, expresses the concern about this violation, and all member [sic] of the Security Council are agreed to asking for Turkey to comply with the international law". Ramirez's comments were immediately contradicted by some council diplomats, with one diplomat telling Anadolu Agency that the Venezuelan envoy's words did not reflect actual substance of the discussions.

Ramirez later held another news conference following a council meeting on Iraq where he was

asked whether his earlier remarks were a mistake.

"We expressed this morning the concern about the situation, but we don't have any product. I have to be clear to everybody, we don't have any product, any press statement, presidential declaration, any resolution about this issue", he said.

When asked if all 15 council members expressed concern about Turkey's actions, he said the members "expressed their concern about that situation, about the bombing of humanitarian facilities, about the many issues, very complicated issues, but we don't have any product at the

moment, we are waiting, still discussing this issue [sic]".

The council session followed Turkish shelling of PYD and PKK positions in northern Syria for four consecutive days in retaliation to artillery fire from PYD forces based around Azaz town, located in Aleppo's northern countryside just 6 kilometers (4 miles) from the Turkish border.

The PYD is the Syrian branch of the terrorist-declared PKK, which has since 1984 targeted Turkish security forces and civilians.

The meeting also came a day after suspected Russian missile attacks on at least six hospitals killed nearly 50 civilians including children in Aleppo and Idlib.

Prior to the meeting, Britain's UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft told reporters that the meeting was an attempt by Russia to divert attention from Syria. "I can understand why countries might want to change the subject and focus on Yemen or focus on Turkey." >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Security Council urged to debate Russian airstrikes

### Turkish deputy prime minister calls on council to address attacks on civilians in Syria



Turkey called on Tuesday for Russia's airstrikes on civilians and hospitals in Syria to be debated at the UN Security Council.

Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus also called on Russia and the U.S. - both permanent members of the council - to show

their support for peace by enforced a no-fly zone in Syria.

"The issue that should be brought to the United Nations Security Council is yesterday's attacks on hospitals, civilian areas and areas that should be jointly defended," Kurtulmus said in a news conference following a Cabinet meeting in Ankara. On Monday, Russian jets targeted two schools and a hospital in Azaz, the northwestern Syrian town that has been the scene of heavy fighting in recent days. A Doctors Without Borders-run hospital in Idlib, 80

kilometers (50 miles) to the southwest of Azaz, was also hit, killing at least 50, including women and children.

Current discussions aimed at moving towards a cease-fire in Syria have been thrown into doubt by a Russian-backed offensive in the northwest of the country.

"If you want to sincerely get a result from the peace tables, immediately prevent the inhuman humanitarian dimensions of the war by declaring a no-fly zone here," Kurtulmus said. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## EU condemns PKK violence in Turkey's southeast



The EU on Tuesday denounced PKK terrorists' return to violence in southeast Turkey in the latest report on the country's membership bid. The 2016 draft progress report said the union "condemns the return to violence by the PKK, which is on the EU's list of terrorist organizations; stresses that there is

no violent solution for the Kurdish question and condemns attacks on security forces and civilians".

It acknowledged "Turkey's legitimate right to fight against terrorism" and said "security measures must be conducted with respect for rule of law and human rights."

EU officials have repeatedly called on all parties in Turkey to recommit to the solution process, the attempt to end the 30-year conflict that stalled after renewed violence broke out last July. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Erdogan calls on West to recognize PYD as terror group



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday urged the international community to recognize the Syrian Kurdish group the PYD as a terrorist organization.

In a news conference with his Yemeni counterpart Mansur Hadi in Ankara, Erdogan said those who recognized the PKK and Daesh as terrorist organizations should also

list the PYD and its armed wing the YPG as terror groups as well.

"Both the PYD and the YPG are the organizations of the Assad regime," he said and the West should "understand that there is no difference between the PYD, PKK, Daesh or DHKP-C."

The PYD and YPG are affiliated to the PKK, which has been fighting an armed insurgency against Turkey since 1984 and is recognized as a terror organization by both the EU and U.S. The DHKP-C is a far-left terror group outlawed by Turkey and the West. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## US sees no preparations for Turkish ground invasion of Syria



The U.S. said Tuesday that it sees no signs that Turkey is preparing for a ground invasion of northern Syria.

"We've not seen any evidence of Turkey's preparing any kind of ground offensive," said State Department spokesman Mark Toner.

He stressed, however, that the aim of the U.S.-led anti-Daesh coalition, to which

Turkey is a member, remains on training and equipping local forces while supporting those groups with airstrikes. Russia has warned that Turkey is amassing ground forces along its southern border in preparation for a ground offensive into northern Syria. The region has recently seen Syrian government and Kurdish advances assisted by Russian airpower.

Most recently, Syrian forces have seized cities surrounding Aleppo as Kurdish Syrian fighters have captured strategic towns to the north, including Azaz, located just 6 kilometers (4 miles) from the

Turkish border, drawing Ankara's ire.

Turkey has bombarded the district for four straight days, urging the fighters to withdraw. Ankara views the YPG Kurdish forces as an extension of the outlawed PKK. But Washington has remained steadfast in its support for the group, calling it an effective and reliable partner in the fight against Daesh. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called on Western powers to designate the fighters and their political wing, the PYD, as terrorist groups. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Merkel promotes EU-Turkey approach to refugee crisis



German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged on Tuesday to promote the EU's agreement with Turkey to stem the flow of refugees into Europe.

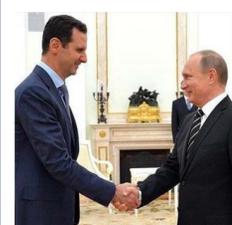
In a news conference following her meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Berlin, Merkel criticized a proposal to close

the EU's internal borders to stop refugees travelling through the Balkans.

She said such a move would threaten the Schengen border-free zone that allows for the free movement of people and goods within Europe. Instead, the chancellor wants Turkey would seal its borders and then fly refugees - mostly Syrians fleeing their country's five-year civil war - to Europe for settlement under a quota system. EU leaders are due to meet in Brussels later this week for talks on the refugee crisis that saw more than 1.1 million enter the EU last year, mostly via Turkey and EU

member Greece. More than 78,000 have crossed from Turkey to Greece so far this year, according to the International Organization for Migration. "I'll put all my strength on Thursday and Friday into ensuring that the European-Turkish approach turns out to be the way that's worth going," she said. Merkel told reporters the EU would become a "laughing stock" if member state leaders attempted to agree new quotas, having so far failed to resettle the 160,000 refugees agreed under last year's quota deal. >> **MORE DETAILS**

## Moscow, Assad use human tragedy as 'weapon': Turkey



near Azaz, has caused many civilian casualties, including children, Davutoglu said. The U.S. condemned the airstrikes that struck civilian targets, including a hospital run by the medical charity Doctors Without Borders and the Women's and Children's hospital in Azaz.

"That the Assad regime and its supporters would continue these attacks, without cause and without sufficient regard for international obligations to safeguard innocent lives, flies in the face of the unanimous calls by the ISSG, including in Munich, to avoid attacks on civilians and casts doubt on Russia's willingness and/or ability to help bring to a stop the continued brutality

of the Assad regime against its own people," said State Department spokesman John Kirby in a written statement.

The International Syria Support group (ISSG) is a 17-nation and three-group coalition working toward a diplomatic solution in Syria.

Kirby urged all parties to cease attacks on civilians and "take immediate steps" to allow humanitarian access and a halt to the fighting in Syria. The condemnation drew push back from Syria that rejected claims it or Russia was responsible for the strikes.

The Syrian Ambassador to Moscow, Riad Haddad, speaking to Russian media said the airstrikes on the Doctors Without Borders hospital were carried out by U.S. planes.

The U.S. countered with a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq tweeting that coalition airstrikes hit only Daesh's self-proclaimed capital Raqqa and Hasakah city. >> **MORE**

## PKK terrorist 'confesses to being trained by PYD'



A PKK terrorist has confessed to martyring two Turkish police officers and being trained in Syria, a police source said Tuesday.

## Turkish PM calls PYD, YPG Russia's 'hired soldiers'



The terrorist PKK's Syrian affiliate PYD and its armed wing YPG are hired soldiers of Russia since they fight moderate opposition forces instead of Daesh, the Turkish premier has said.