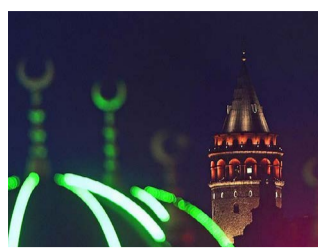


## TURKEY'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS TO GO DARK FOR EARTH HOUR



Iconic Turkish landmarks like the ancient city of Ephesus [Ephesus], Edirne Selimiye Mosque and Cappadocia's Fairy Chimneys will switch off their lights for the first time to support to 'Earth Hour'. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) event -- now in its tenth year -- aims to raise awareness of climate change by turning off lights for one hour. Ephesus, the Selimiye Mosque and the Fairy Chimneys have all joined UNESCO's World Heritage list for this year's event.

>>> CULTURE-ART

## TURKEY SEEKS TO BOOST ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH AFRICA



Turkey's Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK) will head to three African countries as part of the Turkish president's visit, which starts on Sunday, with 150 businessmen, the board president said on Friday. Omer Cihad Vardan, the DEİK president, emphasized the importance of Turkish investments in sub-Saharan Africa. "Turkish businessmen have not yet discovered the current huge economic market in sub-Saharan Africa," Vardan said.

TURKEY

## FOOTBALL: FENERBAHCE DRAWN AGAINST BRAGA IN EUROPA



Turkish football side Fenerbahçe have been drawn against Portuguese club Braga in the last 16 of the UEFA Europa League Round. Draws for the next round of Europe's second-tier international club-level tournament were held Friday in Nyon, Switzerland. Last 16 matches will be played on March 10 and 17. The final will be held at St Jakob-Park in the Swiss city Basel on May 18. Fenerbahçe will play the first leg at home on March 10 and the second leg will be played in Portugal on March 17.

>>>SPORTS

WEATHER / ANKARA



Saturday  
CLOUDY  
12°C



Sunday  
CLOUDY  
16°C



# ANADOLU POST

Saturday February 28, 2016

## Terrorists reveal PKK-PYD link: Turkish security source

### Two captured PYD terrorists have outlined links between Syrian and PKK group, says gendarmerie source



Two captured terrorists of the armed wing People's Protection Units (YPG) of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) have outlined the links and the extent of the cooperation between the Syrian groups and the PKK. A source within the intelligence department of the gendarmerie forces deployed in the southeast-

ern Sanliurfa province told Anadolu Agency that the suspects -- Mesut C. (29) and Abdurrahman P. (23) -- were arrested by local security forces while trying to cross from the Syrian border town of Kobani to the district of Mursitpinar in Sanliurfa. The source failed to specify when they were apprehended.

Ankara considers the PYD, YPG and the PKK to be terrorist outfits, and has frequently pointed to the link between these groups active in Turkey and Syria. The PYD is known as the PKK's Syrian affiliate. The source said Mesut C., who allegedly joined the PKK in 2005, was sent from the Qandil mountains -- location of the PKK stronghold in Iraq -- to Kobani in 2014 to join in clashes against Daesh.

Kobani witnessed heavy fighting between Daesh and the PYD in late 2014 and early 2015. Still according to the intelligence department source, he said that he later traveled to Turkey to operate a sniper in the Sur district of the southeastern Diyarbakir province to

support PKK forces. Code-named Diren (Resist) Mesut C. reportedly said that the PKK had recently sent snipers to Turkey. Meanwhile, code-named Tirej, Abdurrahman P. allegedly asserted that troops used drugs to give themselves courage during clashes. He also reportedly said that the PKK had suffered heavy losses in Sur, Cizre and Silopi districts in southeastern and had requested snipers from PYD-YPG forces. Security forces said they had seized an M-16 infantry rifle, two Kalashnikov rifles, eight grenades, drugs, two YPG uniforms, a detailed map of the Sur district and organizational documents on the terrorists.

>>>MORE DETAILS

## Turkey fears for Syria deal amid Russia, regime attacks



Ankara has expressed grave concern over the future of the recent U.S.-Russia agreement aimed at halting the ongoing hostilities in Syria. "We support this ceasefire in principle but the continuous bombardment by Russian jets and ground offensives by Assad forces cause serious concerns for us regarding the future of the truce," Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told a news briefing at the presidential complex on Friday.

Earlier this week, Washington and Moscow announced a "cessation of hostilities" in Syria that is scheduled to take effect at midnight Friday local time. It is hoped the deal will allow aid to be delivered to desperate Syrians. Daesh and al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front, are excluded from the agreement. During remarks made on Thursday, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said that Ankara will neither hesitate to do what is necessary nor seek permission from anyone in case of a threat against its security

from any party in Syria. "All must know that this ceasefire is only valid for Syria and the warring sides in the country," he told the media during a trip to Turkey's Konya province. "If any of them poses a threat to Turkey's security, it becomes non-binding for us."

Kalin also echoed Davutoglu's remarks, saying: "Turkey will use its rights originating from international law and apply the rules of engagement to protect its national security -- if necessary -- no matter from which part of Syria or from which terrorist group the threat comes."

Turkey's military shelled PYD/YPG positions in northern Syria for a week beginning Feb. 13 in response to artillery fire from PYD forces based around Aleppo's Azaz town, located just six kilometers (four miles) from the Turkish border.

The YPG, the armed wing of the PYD, has been supported by U.S. airstrikes in its fight against Daesh and more recently by Russian warplanes as it seeks to gain further ground while opposition groups face regime offensives in northern Syria. Ankara sees all three -- the PYD, YPG and the PKK -- as terrorist organizations. The presidential spokesman noted that Turkey wants to

>>>MORE DETAILS

## Turkey's EU minister praises Merkel on refugee crisis



Turkey's Europe minister has said Germany's Angel Merkel is the "only European leader that has the correct diagnosis" on the migration crisis. Turkish Minister for European Affairs Volkan Bozkir was speaking at an Istanbul-based Turkish-German university on Thursday where he quoted Merkel as saying "migration cannot be prevented, and should not be." "Merkel's thought is the only appropriate description in accordance with European values ... it should be an example for all Europe," Bozkir told students. >>>MORE DETAILS

## PYD selling out US, Turkish foreign minister says

### Mevlut Cavusoglu says group is moving closer to Russia



The U.S. is being betrayed by the PYD in Syria, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told Anadolu Agency's Editor's Desk on Thursday.

Referring to the Kurdish group's recently opened bureau in Moscow, he said: "The PYD has started to sell out the U.S. and has opened

office in Moscow." The PYD, a PKK affiliate that Ankara regards as a terrorist group, opened the office earlier this month. It has recently been supported by Russian airstrikes in Syria as it seeks to gain further ground while rebel groups face a Syrian government offensive.

The group has long been regarded by the U.S. as a reliable ally operating on the ground in the fight against Daesh in Syria. Although the U.S. lists the PKK as a terror group, it does not acknowledge the PYD or its armed wing, the YPG, as such. >>>MORE DETAILS

## US 'very sensitive' to Turkey's YPG concerns

### 'We need to respect Turkey's concerns, and we will, we believe,' Kerry



The U.S. is "very sensitive" to Turkey's concerns regarding the YPG, America's top diplomat said Thursday. John Kerry told lawmakers the U.S. has been talking "considerably" with Turkey regarding the dispute the two countries have about the group in Syria.

The YPG is the armed wing of the PKK's Syrian affiliate PYD.

Turkey considers all three terrorist groups, but the U.S. names only PKK as a terrorist entity and says the YPG a "reliable partner" fighting Daesh in northern Syria.

"We need to respect Turkey's concerns, and we will, we believe," Kerry said.

"Going forward is very important that there not be a different problem created by the short-term solution of working with the Kurds, and then that creates a longer-term challenge for all of us in the region. So we're working very, very carefully." Citing the recapture of the city of Kobani in northern Syria by Kurdish forces, Kerry said local ground forces are needed in order to fight Daesh. "There are different Kurds because some are more prepared and more comfortable working with Turkey than others are, and those divisions are very complicated and need to be managed carefully," he said.

>>>MORE DETAILS

## Turkish president commemorates Khojaly Massacre

### Armenian forces took over the town of Khojaly in Nagorno-Karabakh on Feb. 26, 1992, killing more than 600 Azeri citizens



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan commemorated on Friday the 1992 Khojaly Massacre.

"I wish Allah's mercy for those killed during the Khojaly Massacre," Erdogan said during the opening ceremony of Turkish Vakifbank's Islamic branch in Istanbul. The massacre on February 25-26, 1992, is regarded as one of the bloodiest and most controversial incidents of the war between Ar-

menia and Azerbaijan for control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Armenian forces took over the town of Khojaly in Nagorno-Karabakh on Feb. 26 after battering it with heavy artillery and tanks, assisted by an infantry regiment. The two-hour offensive killed 613 Azeri citizens, including 116 women and 63 children and critically injured 487 others, according to Azeri figures.

Various memorials have been held around Turkey to commemorate the massacre. Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said Friday that Turkey condemned "inhumane attack against civilians" and declared solidarity with Azerbaijani people.

>>>MORE DETAILS

## Davutoglu: Turkey not bound by Syria deal

### PM says Turkey would 'not seek permission from anyone' when it came to maintaining the country's security"



Turkey is not bound by the U.S.-Russia agreement to halt hostilities in Syria, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Thursday.

"All must know that this ceasefire is only valid for Syria and the warring sides in the country," he told the media during a trip to Konya province. "If any of them poses a threat to Turkey's security, it becomes non-binding for us."

He added: "Turkey will not seek permission from anyone when it comes to its own security but will do the necessary. Because when it happens, it becomes an issue not only for Syria but also for Turkey." Washington and Moscow this week

announced a "cessation of hostilities" in Syria that is scheduled to take effect at midnight Friday local time. It is hoped the deal will allow aid to be delivered to desperate Syrians.

Daesh and al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front, are excluded from the agreement. Davutoglu criticized the lack of reference to the Syrian affiliates of the PKK, which resumed its 30-year armed campaign against the Turkish state in late July 2015. The YPG, the armed wing of the PYD, has been supported by U.S. airstrikes in its fight against Daesh and more recently by Russian warplanes as it sought to expand its territory in northern Syria. "The YPG is a terrorist organization for us, just like Daesh and al-Nusra," Davutoglu said, referring to al-Qaeda's Syrian branch. "There should have been a reference to them in the truce." >>>MORE DETAILS

## Turkey's Coast Guard sees 1,000% increase in migrants



Turkey's Coast Guard has said that the number of migrants discovered in the country's Aegean region has risen by 1,000 percent since the same period in 2015. Almost 6,800 migrants -- mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq -- were found by the Turkish authorities in the first 24 days of February, according to fresh data.

This compares to around 600 migrants who were detained in February last year.

This huge increase is also reflected in a two-month comparison between this year and 2015. >>>MORE DETAILS

## Army says 20 PKK terrorists killed in SE Turkey



Turkey's military says nine PKK terrorists have been killed in the southeastern province of Sirnak's Idil district.

According to military sources, the militants were "neutralized" in air-supported operation early on Wednesday. >>>MORE DETAILS