



December 2014

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Foreign Policy

U.S., Turkey Narrow Differences on Islamic State Fight

U.S. and Turkish officials have narrowed their differences over a joint military mission in Syria that would give the U.S. and its coalition partners permission to use Turkish air bases to launch strike operations against Islamic State targets across northern Syria, according to officials in both countries.

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Wall Street Journal, December 1, 2014, U.S., Turkey Narrow Differences on Islamic State Fight, [http://online.wsj.com/articles/u-s-turkey-move-closer-in-talks-involving-bases-air-zones-1417414812?mod=WSJ\\_hp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/articles/u-s-turkey-move-closer-in-talks-involving-bases-air-zones-1417414812?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTTopStories)

#### **Pope Caps Turkey Trip with Refugee Meeting, Call for Christian Unity**

Pope Francis met with refugees fleeing violence in the Middle East and issued a strong call for Christian unity in the face of Islamist extremism, ending a three-day visit to Turkey that has focused on a message of interreligious tolerance and outreach.

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Wall Street Journal, December 1, 2014, Pope Caps Turkey Trip with Refugee Meeting, Call for Christian Unity, <http://online.wsj.com/articles/pope-francis-wraps-up-turkey-trip-with-refugee-meetings-1417357501>

NATO calls on Turkey to join EU sanctions against Russia as Putin visits Ankara

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has voiced his expectations from Turkey to join the economic sanctions campaign against Russia over the Ukrainian crisis.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 1, 2014, NATO calls on Turkey to join EU sanctions against Russia as Putin visits Ankara, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nato-calls-on-turkey-to-join-eu-sanctions-against-russia-as-putin-visits-ankara.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75048&NewsCatID=510>

#### **Turkey assumes G20 presidency, pledges to fight inequality**

Turkey assumed the presidency of the G20 group of major economies for the first time in its history on Dec. 1, pledging to fight global inequality during its turn at the helm. The presidency of the G20 is seen by Ankara as a major opportunity for Turkey to showcase its status as an economic and political power under the rule of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 1, 2014, Turkey assumes G20 presidency, pledges to fight inequality, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-assumes-g20-presidency-pledges-to-fight-inequality.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75061&NewsCatID=510>

Iraqi Kurds set to send fresh troops to Kobane

Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has announced that it will soon send replacements for its 150 Peshmerga fighters who were recently sent to the Syrian town of Kobane through Turkey.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 1, 2014, Iraqi Kurds set to send fresh troops to Kobane, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/iraqi-kurds-set-to-send-fresh-troops-to-kobane.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75045&NewsCatID=352>

### **Brussels is Turkey's second capital city, says top boss**

Brussels is Turkey's second capital, but the country suffers a "perception problem" there, the chairman of the Turkish Industrial and Business Association (TÜSİAD) has said, after his two-day visit with other TÜSİAD representatives to the European capital.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 5, 2014, Brussels is Turkey's second capital city, says top boss, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/brussels-is-turkeys-second-capital-city-says-top-boss.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75224&NewsCatID=345>

Washington dubs Syria no-fly zone plans as 'pre-mature'

Washington has asserted it is "premature" to say they are close to making a decision on the no-fly zone idea pushed by Ankara, contradicting the top Turkish diplomat's words that signaled progress in narrowing the differences of views on the matter.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 4, 2014, Washington dubs Syria no-fly zone plans as 'pre-mature', <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/washington-dubs-syria-no-fly-zone-plans-as-pre-mature.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75199&NewsCatID=359>

### **Take Turkey into EU's family photo: Turkish minister**



Ankara has called on the EU to “make visible” the dialogue between Ankara and Brussels, by inviting Turkish leaders to EU meetings. The call came at a joint press conference with visiting Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 8, 2014, Take Turkey into EU’s family photo: Turkish minister, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/take-turkey-into-eus-family-photo-turkish-minister.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75355&NewsCatID=510>

Britain's Cameron to travel to Turkey to discuss ISIL foreign fighter problem

British Prime Minister David Cameron will travel to Turkey on Dec. 9 to meet President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to discuss how to stop Britons crossing into Syria and Iraq to join Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters via the Turkish border, his spokesman said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 8, 2014, Britain's Cameron to travel to Turkey to discuss ISIL foreign fighter problem, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/britains-cameron-to-travel-to-turkey-to-discuss-isil-foreign-fighter-problem.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75341&NewsCatID=359>

### **PYD ‘promised’ US to not give arms to PKK**

The Democratic Union Party (PYD) has promised that arms sent by the United States to fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) will definitely not be transferred to the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK), PYD co-leader Salih Muslim has told the Hürriyet Daily News.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 8, 2014, PYD ‘promised’ US to not give arms to PKK, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/pyd-promised-us-to-not-give-arms-to-pkk.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75307&NewsCatID=359>

US embassy warns of potential attack in southeast Turkey against Syrian opposition group

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara said on Dec. 3 it had received reports that "extremist groups" may be planning an attack against a Syrian opposition group in the southeastern Turkish city of Gaziantep.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 4, 2014, US embassy warns of potential attack in southeast Turkey against Syrian opposition group, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-embassy-warns-of-potential-attack-in-southeast-turkey-against-syrian-opposition-group.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75183&NewsCatID=341>



### **US, EU condemn detention of journalists in Turkey**

The United States expressed concern Dec. 14 over the detentions in Turkey of more than two dozen media figures. Turkish police raids on media outlets are incompatible with media freedom and run counter to European values, the European Union said in an unusually strongly worded statement on Dec. 15.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 15, 2014, US, EU condemn detention of journalists in Turkey, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-eu-condemn-detention-of-journalists-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75629&NewsCatID=338>

Turkish President Erdoğan slams EU over remarks on media raid

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has slammed the European Union for its “impetuous” criticism of an ongoing police operation that has resulted in the high-profile detention of members of the media and police officers.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 15, 2014, Turkish President Erdoğan slams EU over remarks on media raid, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-president-erdogan-slams-eu-over-remarks-on-media-raid-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75648&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey hosts first meeting with G-20 representatives, business leaders**

Turkey hosted meetings with representatives of G-20 countries and the inaugural meeting of the B-20, the business branch of the G-20, on Dec. 15, the first such set of meetings since it became president of the G-20 at the start of the month.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 15, 2014, Turkey hosts first meeting with G-20 representatives, business leaders, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-hosts-first-meeting-with-g-20-representatives-business-leaders.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75660&NewsCatID=344>

TUSIAD President Haluk Dinçer’s Remarks at the B20 Launch Meeting

The B20 Turkey Launch Meeting was held in Istanbul on December 15, bringing the global and Turkish business communities together. TUSIAD President Haluk Dinçer, in his remarks, stressed that the B20 platform is a significant opportunity for business leaders to influence global decision-makers in order to maintain a global agenda that is favorable to international business and trade.

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TUSIAD, December 15, 2014, [TUSIAD President Haluk Dinçer's Remarks at the B20 Launch Meeting](#)

### **'UN does not want Turkey's democratic gains to backslide'**

Turkey has made a lot of progress over the last 10 years in terms of democratization, according to the UN's envoy to the country. 'The last year-and-a-half has been more challenging, but we hope the overall gains will be consolidated. We don't want to see any backsliding,' says Kamal Malhotra.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 15, 2014, 'UN does not want Turkey's democratic gains to backslide', <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/un-does-not-want-turkeys-democratic-gains-to-backslide.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75609&NewsCatID=359>

European Parliament rapporteur calls on Turkey for more alignment on foreign policy

The European Parliament's new rapporteur for Turkey has urged the country to intensify cooperation on foreign policy coordination and cooperation, calling on it to support the European Union's sanctions on Russia.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 11, 2014, European Parliament rapporteur calls on Turkey for more alignment on foreign policy, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/european-parliament-rapporteur-calls-on-turkey-for-more-alignment-on-foreign-policy.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75517&NewsCatID=510>

### **Turkey President Erdogan Defends Detentions, Dismisses EU Criticism**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday defended the detention of journalists and security officials as a necessary step to catch traitors, vowing to continue a crackdown while dismissing criticism from the European Union as meddling in his country's affairs.

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Wall Street Journal, December 15, 2014, Turkey President Erdogan Defends Detentions, Dismisses EU Criticism, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkey-president-erdogan-defends-detentions-dismisses-eu-criticism-1418664422>

Putin praises Erdoğan as 'tough man' for defying EU over pipeline decision

Russian President Vladimir Putin has described Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as a "tough man," praising him for not being intimidated by a potential Western reaction against Russia's decision to scrap the South Stream gas pipeline in favor of replacing it with a route through Turkey.



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Hurriyet Daily News, December 18, 2014, Putin praises Erdoğan as 'tough man' for defying EU over pipeline decision, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/putin-praises-erdogan-as-tough-man-for-defying-eu-over-pipeline-decision.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75795&NewsCatID=359>

### **Turkey Strengthens Rights of Syrian Refugees**

Turkey has issued new regulations that grant Syrian refugees secure legal status in the country for the first time, clarifying and expanding rights for more than a million people who are rapidly assimilating into Turkish society.

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New York Times, December 29, 2014, Turkey Strengthens Rights of Syrian Refugees, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/30/world/europe/turkey-strengthens-rights-of-syrian-refugees.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0>

Ankara refutes UN report claiming Turkey route for arms to al-Qaeda

Turkish Foreign Ministry refuted a United Nations report claiming that Turkey is being used as one of the primary routes for weapons smuggling to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and al-Nusra.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 30, 2014, Ankara refutes UN report claiming Turkey route for arms to al-Qaeda, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/ankara-refutes-un-report-claiming-turkey-route-for-arms-to-al-qaeda.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76266&NewsCatID=359>

## **Domestic Politics**

### **Turkish Police to Get More Search Powers**

The Turkish police will have wider latitude to conduct searches, and the government will have greater control over the judiciary, under a bill passed late Tuesday by Parliament.

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New York Times, December 3, 2014, Turkish Police to Get More Search Powers, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/04/world/turkish-police-to-get-more-search-powers.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0>

Turkish gov't to announce new transparency reforms: Deputy PM Babacan



The government is set to complete a detailed reform package to increase economic transparency in Turkey, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan has told a group of economy reporters ahead of his visit to the United States.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 4, 2014, Turkish gov't to announce new transparency reforms: Deputy PM Babacan, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-govt-to-announce-new-transparency-reforms-deputy-pm-babacan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75209&NewsCatID=344>

### **Legal steps on Kurdish peace bid 'a must' to disarm, PKK tells Turkish gov't**

Eyes are now on the Turkish government's moves in the Kurdish issue, after a Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) team revealed remarks by the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in which he said further steps in the peace process "must be subject to a legal framework."

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 2, 2014, Legal steps on Kurdish peace bid 'a must' to disarm, PKK tells Turkish gov't, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/legal-steps-on-kurdish-peace-bid-a-must-to-disarm-pkk-tells-turkish-govt.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75076&NewsCatID=338>

In Push Against Muslim Cleric, Turkey Detains Police Officers and Journalists

The Turkish police detained at least 24 police officers, journalists and media workers in raids on Sunday morning, days after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signaled a new campaign against supporters of an influential Muslim cleric whom he has accused of attempting to overthrow his government.

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New York Times, December 14, 2015, In Push Against Muslim Cleric, Turkey Detains Police Officers and Journalists, [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/15/world/europe/turkish-police-officers-and-media-workers-are-detained-in-roundup.html?ref=todayspaper&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/15/world/europe/turkish-police-officers-and-media-workers-are-detained-in-roundup.html?ref=todayspaper&_r=0)

### **Turkish gov't, HDP deny autonomy in negotiations in Kurdish peace process**

In strongly-worded remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan has ruled out any discussion with the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) on prospects of "autonomy" as part of the peace process, while a leading deputy of the HDP who indicated the presence of such a discussion has also denied this claim.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 11, 2014, Turkish gov't, HDP deny autonomy in negotiations in Kurdish peace process, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-govt-hdp-deny-autonomy-in-negotiations-in-kurdish-peace-process.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75491&NewsCatID=338>

Turkish President Erdogan Seeks to Reshape Secular Education

Political divisions here are extending into the classroom as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, inspired by the country's Ottoman past, vows to reshape a secular education system.

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Wall Street Journal, December 14, 2014, Turkish President Erdogan Seeks to Reshape Secular Education, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-president-erdogan-seeks-to-reshape-secular-education-1418604794>

### **Turkish gov't, HDP herald 'new phase' in Kurdish peace process**

Both the government and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) have simultaneously announced that the stalled peace process has entered "a new phase," with the latter emphasizing that the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) will assume a more central role in the new phase.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 22, 2014, Turkish gov't, HDP herald 'new phase' in Kurdish peace process, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/crisis-with-government-over-new-phase-started-in-kurdish-peace-bid-says-hdps-onder-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75914&NewsCatID=338>

Dec 17 graft probe into senior government figures officially dropped

A landmark graft probe into senior government figures was officially dropped a day before its first anniversary when the Istanbul Chief Prosecutor's Office rejected an objection to its decision to not pursue proceedings in the case

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 16, 2014, Dec 17 graft probe into senior government figures officially dropped, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/dec-17-graft-probe-into-senior-government-figures-officially-dropped.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75695&NewsCatID=338>

### **Turkey's top business organization against presidential system: Chairman**

Turkey's top business organization, TÜSIAD, is against a regime change toward presidential system, its leader has said, while also complaining of the country's poor judicial system.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 29, 2014, Turkey's top business organization against presidential system: Chairman, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-top-business-organization-against-presidential-system-chairman.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76206&NewsCatID=338>

President Erdoğan tells PM Davutoğlu: I'll chair Cabinet on Jan 19

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has ended speculation as to when he will chair a Cabinet meeting, announcing Dec. 29 that he will do so on Jan. 19, 2015, while underlining that the move was in line with the charter and within the knowledge of Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 29, 2014, President Erdoğan tells PM Davutoğlu: I'll chair Cabinet on Jan 19, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-tells-pm-davutoglu-ill-chair-cabinet-on-jan-19.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76234&NewsCatID=338>

### **President Erdoğan is seeking one-man rule: Opposition**

Opposition parties have maintained that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's decision to chair a meeting of the Cabinet is a striking reflection of his ambition for one-man rule.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 30, 2014, President Erdoğan is seeking one-man rule: Opposition, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-is-seeking-one-man-rule-opposition.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76303&NewsCatID=338>

Erdoğan sets 2015 goals as Kurdish bid, Gülenists

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's New Year's address has mirrored his priorities for 2015, as he highlighted the importance in fighting the movement of Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen, referred to by government officials as the "parallel state," along with pursuing the peace process with the country's Kurds.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 31, 2014, Erdoğan sets 2015 goals as Kurdish bid, Gülenists, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-sets-2015-goals-as-kurdish-bid-gulenists.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76333&NewsCatID=338>

### **Twelve new desks to be founded at presidency: Report**



As discussion heats up over President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's upcoming chairmanship of the Turkish Cabinet later this month, a pro-government newspaper has reported that 12 new desks will be founded at the presidency, adding to former rumors that a "shadow cabinet" would begin to take charge.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 31, 2014, Twelve new desks to be founded at presidency: Report, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/twelve-new-desks-to-be-founded-at-presidency-report.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76325&NewsCatID=338>

Economy and Energy

Turkey's refinery to make \$3 billion upgrade online by 2015

Turkish refiner Tüpraş aims for all units in the \$3 billion upgrade project at its İzmit refinery to be online at the start of next year, its General Manager Yavuz Erkut said Dec. 1.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 1, 2014, Turkey's refinery to make \$3 billion upgrade online by 2015, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-refinery-to-make-3-billion-upgrade-online-by-2015.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75062&NewsCatID=348>

#### **Turkey must reform to avoid middle income trap, IMF says**

Without deeper reforms to its savings rate and competitiveness, Turkey risks lower medium-term growth that would leave it stuck in a "middle-income trap," the International Monetary Fund warned in a report.

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Reuters, December 5, 2014, Turkey must reform to avoid middle income trap, IMF says, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/05/us-turkey-imf-idUSKCN0JJ29N20141205>

Foreign investors coming back to Turkey, says minister

Investment perceptions about Turkey have started to become positive again and funds are flowing back into the country, Finance Minister Mehmet Şimşek has said after a series of meetings with foreign investors.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 5, 2014, Foreign investors coming back to Turkey, says minister, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/foreign-investors-coming-back-to-turkey-says-minister.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75254&NewsCatID=346>

### **In Diplomatic Defeat, Putin Diverts Pipeline to Turkey**

President Vladimir V. Putin said Monday that he would scrap Russia's South Stream gas pipeline, a grandiose project that was once intended to establish the country's dominance in southeastern Europe but instead fell victim to Russia's increasingly toxic relationship with the West.

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New York Times, December 1, 2014, In Diplomatic Defeat, Putin Diverts Pipeline to Turkey, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/02/world/europe/russian-gas-pipeline-turkey-south-stream.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0>

In Push Against Muslim Cleric, Turkey Detains Police Officers and Journalists

The Turkish police detained at least 24 police officers, journalists and media workers in raids on Sunday morning, days after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signaled a new campaign against supporters of an influential Muslim cleric whom he has accused of attempting to overthrow his government.

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New York Times, December 14, 2015, In Push Against Muslim Cleric, Turkey Detains Police Officers and Journalists, <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/15/world/europe/turkish-police-officers-and-media-workers-are-detained-in-roundup.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0>

### **Turkish gov't, HDP deny autonomy in negotiations in Kurdish peace process**

In strongly-worded remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Yalçın Akdoğan has ruled out any discussion with the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) on prospects of "autonomy" as part of the peace process, while a leading deputy of the HDP who indicated the presence of such a discussion has also denied this claim.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 11, 2014, Turkish gov't, HDP deny autonomy in negotiations in Kurdish peace process, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-govt-hdp-deny-autonomy-in-negotiations-in-kurdish-peace-process.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75491&NewsCatID=338>

Turkish President Erdogan Seeks to Reshape Secular Education

Political divisions here are extending into the classroom as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, inspired by the country's Ottoman past, vows to reshape a secular education system.



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Wall Street Journal, December 14, 2014, Turkish President Erdogan Seeks to Reshape Secular Education, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-president-erdogan-seeks-to-reshape-secular-education-1418604794>

### **Turkey on threshold of becoming a high-income economy, but challenges remain: World Bank**

Steady growth over recent decades has brought Turkey to the threshold of becoming a high-income economy, prosperity has been broadly shared across income groups, and the size of the middle-class has doubled, according to a new World Bank report.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 11, 2014, Turkey on threshold of becoming a high-income economy, but challenges remain: World Bank, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-on-threshold-of-becoming-a-high-income-economy-but-challenges-remain-world-bank.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75500&NewsCatID=344>

September unemployment hits 10.5 pct, highest since February 2011

Turkey's unemployment rate has increased to 10.5 percent in the three month period between August and October, compared with the 10.1 percent between July and September, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) said Dec. 15.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 15, 2014, September unemployment hits 10.5 pct, highest since February 2011, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/september-unemployment-hits-105-pct-highest-since-february-2011.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75637&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkish lira hits 11-month low as media raid jars nerves**

The Turkish Lira has seen another tumble after a weekend raid by police on media outlets. The currency has weakened 0.8 percent to 2.317 to the dollar, which is its weakest since January when it hit an all-time low of 2.39.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 15, 2014, Turkish lira hits 11-month low as media raid jars nerves, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-lira-hits-11-month-low-as-media-raid-jars-nerves.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75643&NewsCatID=344>



Inflation expectations improve amid oil drop

Oil and commodity price falls have helped bring down inflation expectations in Turkey, a Central Bank survey showed on Dec. 19, although economists expect no immediate interest rate cuts.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 19, 2014, Inflation expectations improve amid oil drop, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/inflation-expectations-improve-amid-oil-drop.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75857&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkey's new economic action plans urge savings**

Shortly after announcing the first nine programs of a detailed economic transformation plan, the government has announced an additional set of macro-economic reforms, with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu putting particular emphasis on the need to reduce public expenditures.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 18, 2014, Turkey's new economic action plans urge savings, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-new-economic-action-plans-urge-savings-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75805&NewsCatID=344>

Selling in ruble takes Turkish agro businesses to brink of bankruptcy

Turkish agriculture sector producers, who had raised their hopes of taking a larger share in the Russian market due to Moscow's political rows with Europe, are now paying the price of advanced sales in the ruble, the Russian currency that is currently in free fall.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 18, 2014, Selling in ruble takes Turkish agro businesses to brink of bankruptcy, <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/selling-in-ruble-takes-turkish-agro-businesses-to-brink-of-bankruptcy-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75789&NewsCatID=344>

### **Turkish Petroleum, Shell 'to explore oil'**

According to the project filed by Shell Upstream Turkey and Turkish Petroleum, the Anglo-Dutch multinational oil-and-gas company and Turkish Petroleum will start their exploration in the first quarter of 2015 and continue their activities in the region for eight months.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 15, 2014, Turkish Petroleum, Shell 'to explore oil', <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-petroleum-shell-to-explore-oil-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75659&NewsCatID=348>



Chances for economy ahead amid elections

A number of opportunities exist for the Turkish economy in 2015 with decreasing oil prices and steps toward long-term structural reforms, despite the fact there will be general elections, said Turkish conglomerate Sabancı Holding's Chairperson Güler Sabancı Dec. 29.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 29, 2014, Chances for economy ahead amid elections,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/chances-for-economy-ahead-amid-elections.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76239&NewsCatID=345>

### **Turkish Lira under dollar pressure**

The year 2014 has been one in which the Turkish Lira plummeted under heavy pressure from the U.S. dollar. The lira is entering the new year with a lot of accumulated stress.

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Hurriyet Daily News, December 29, 2014, Turkish Lira under dollar pressure,

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-lira-under-dollar-pressure.aspx?pageID=238&nID=76187&NewsCatID=344>