



May 2014

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Foreign Policy

Biden's visit to Turkish Cyprus a historical step, says FM Davutoğlu

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U.S. Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Turkish Cyprus is a historical step as it shows equal treatment to both sides and gives a positive message, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 23 May 2014, Biden's visit to Turkish Cyprus a historical step, says FM Davutoğlu

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/bidens-visit-to-turkish-cyprus-a-historical-step-says-fm-davutoglu.aspx?pageID=238&nID=66882&NewsCatID=510>

#### **Turkish court orders arrest of four Israeli generals over Mavi Marmara**

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A Turkish court has ordered the arrest of four Israeli commanders who were allegedly involved in the raid on the the Mavi Marmara aid ship off Gaza in 2010.

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An Israeli official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, described the court's decision as a "ridiculous provocation." "If this is the message that the Turks want to send to Israel, it was perfectly well understood," said the official, declining to elaborate further on what this meant for the reconciliation process.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 26 May 2014, Turkish court orders arrest of four Israeli generals over Mavi Marmara

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-court-orders-arrest-of-four-israeli-generals-over-mavi-marmara-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=66979&NewsCatID=510>

Turkish PM Erdoğan slams German media, calls for 'integration' but 'no assimilation' in Cologne

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Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has addressed some 20,000 supporters in a sports hall in Cologne in the run-up to the presidential elections on May 24, while around 80,000 protested him elsewhere in the German city.

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Erdoğan slammed a section of the German media, as well as his political opponents in Turkey, while saying “no to assimilation” like he did in 2008, but also stressed the importance of “integration” and learning German.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 24 May 2014, Turkish PM Erdoğan slams German media, calls for ‘integration’ but ‘no assimilation’ in Cologne

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-pm-erdogan-slams-german-media-calls-for-integration-but-no-assimilation-in-cologne.aspx?pageID=238&nID=66901&NewsCatID=510>

### **Obama phones Gül, extends condolences for Soma**

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President Obama called President Abdullah Gul of Turkey to offer his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the American people to the Turkish people on the tragic accident at the Soma mine. The President offered that the United States stands ready to provide any assistance that could help those affected, and he reaffirmed the importance we place on our relationship with Turkey, a strong friend and NATO ally.

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White House, 16 May 2014, Obama phones Gül, extends condolences for Soma

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/05/16/readout-president-s-call-president-gul-turkey>

European court orders Turkey to compensate Cyprus for 1974 invasion

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The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ordered the Turkish government on Monday to pay 90 million euros (\$124 million) in compensation to Cyprus over human rights abuses committed during and after Turkey's invasion of the island in 1974.

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Reuters, 12 May 2014, European court orders Turkey to compensate Cyprus for 1974 invasion

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/12/us-cyprus-turkey-courts-idUSBREA4B0K520140512>

### **Government decides to better inform foreign media about 'Turkey's press freedom'**

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Turkey's government is taking steps to inform foreign journalists in other countries about the "truth in Turkey," Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu has said, suggesting that recent criticism from international actors about freedom of press in Turkey is driven by misperceptions.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 9 May 2014, Government decides to better inform foreign media about 'Turkey's press freedom'

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/government-decides-to-better-inform-foreign-media-about-turkeys-press-freedom-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=66266&NewsCatID=338>

TUSIAD Delegation Concludes Washington Visit

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A TUSIAD delegation led by the President of the Board of Directors Muharrem Yilmaz concluded three days of talks with U.S. officials and opinion leaders in Washington. The TUSIAD delegation had an opportunity to exchange views on U.S. – Turkey economic and political relations and recent developments in Turkey and the region.

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TUSIAD, 2 May 2014, TUSIAD Delegation Concludes Washington Visit

<http://www.tusiad.us/press-releases/tusiad-delegation-concludes-washington-visit/>

Today's Zaman, 2 May 2014, TÜSİAD: Foreign investors question slowdown in Turkey reforms

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-346766-tusiad-foreign-investors-question-slowdown-in-turkey-reforms.html>

### **Turkey press demoted to "not free" in Freedom House report**

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Turkey has been relegated from the league of "Partly Free" countries to the league of "Not Free" countries, according to the latest report from U.S. think tank Freedom House.

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The report, titled "Freedom of the Press 2014," concludes that global press freedom fell to its lowest level in over a decade in 2013, as hopes raised by the Arab Spring were further dashed by major regression in Egypt, Libya, and Jordan, and marked setbacks also occurred in Turkey, Ukraine, and a number of countries in East Africa.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 1 May 2014, Turkey no longer even 'partly free,' according to press freedom report



<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-no-longer-even-partly-free-according-to-press-freedom-report.aspx?pageID=238&nID=65827&NewsCatID=359>

Freedom House, 1 May 2014, Freedom of the Press 2014

<http://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/freedom-press-2014#.U2e9N4FdU5k>

Turks to Seek Extradition of Preacher Living in U.S.

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Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday that Turkey would officially request that the United States extradite Fethullah Gulen, a Turkish preacher in Pennsylvania whose network of followers has been accused of trying to undercut Mr. Erdogan's government through a corruption scandal.

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New York Times, 29 April 2014, Turks to Seek Extradition of Preacher Living in U.S.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/30/world/middleeast/turkish-leader-seeks-extradition-of-muslim-preacher-in-us.html>

### **Domestic Politics**

#### **The Failed Autocrat**

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Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was once the darling of the international community, but no more. He is still sometimes praised for stewarding Turkey through impressive economic growth, defanging a Turkish military establishment with a long history of meddling in national politics, and initiating a promising peace process with the country's restive Kurdish population. But Erdogan's achievements are now shadowed by his undeniable lurch toward autocracy. Over the last year, he has initiated a harsh crackdown against peaceful protesters, political opponents, and independent media outlets, writes Daron Acemoglu.

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Foreign Affairs, 22 May 2014, The Failed Autocrat

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141444/daron-acemoglu/the-failed-autocrat>

Turkey Mine Disaster Sparks Opposition Claims of Close Links Between Coal, Politics

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This month's mine disaster roiling Turkey is shining a light on the ruling party's close ties to the industry, with opposition lawmakers accusing the government of allowing companies to get away with lax safety standards and low wages.

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Wall Street Journal, 21 May 2014, Turkey Mine Disaster Sparks Opposition Claims of Close Links Between Coal, Politics

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303480304579575890767854238?mg=reno64-wsj>

### **Turkish Coal Mine Disaster Leaves Deep Scars**

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Days after a suspected explosion sparked a fire in the Soma coal mine, Turkey has been plunged into grief over the nearly 300 deaths. Many families were frustrated with the slow recovery of bodies, and angry at government officials unable to deliver sufficient explanation or comfort.

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Wall Street Journal, 17 May 2014, Turkish Coal Mine Disaster Leaves Deep Scars

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304908304579566122905184120>

Turkey Arrests Several Executives Over Mining Disaster

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Under pressure from a public angered by the worst mining accident in Turkey's history, Turkish authorities on Sunday detained 25 people and arrested at least three mining company executives after an initial investigation suggested that the company had failed to heed safety warnings, the local prosecutor's office said.

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New York Times, 18 May 2014, Turkey Arrests Several Executives Over Mining Disaster

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/19/world/europe/turkish-authorities-make-arrests-in-mining-disaster.html?ref=todayspaper>

### **Public's Outrage Over Mine Disaster Casts Harsh Light on Turkey's Premier**

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Mr. Erdogan, whose Islamist party still holds unrivaled power after a decade, has recently stumbled from one political crisis to the next, often deepening public outrage with highhanded remarks and an



authoritarian determination. That was the case again in Soma, even while the dead were being buried and bodies were still being recovered.

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Mr. Erdogan traveled to Soma on Wednesday and appeared defensive from the start. He suggested that mining disasters were commonplace, even in developed countries, and recited a list of accidents that occurred in Britain in the 1800s — an awkward comparison for a leader who has projected an image of Turkey as a modern democracy.

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New York Times, 16 May 2014, Public's Outrage Over Mine Disaster Casts Harsh Light on Turkey's Premier

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/17/world/europe/turkish-authorities-say-miners-still-missing.html?_r=0

Turkish PM Erdogan heckles lawyer's speech, storms out

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Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan heckled the head of the country's bar association on Saturday, accusing him of rudeness for speaking critically of the government at a judicial ceremony before storming out of the hall.

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Reuters, 10 May 2014, Turkish PM Erdogan heckles lawyer's speech, storms out

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/10/us-turkey-erdogan-idUSBREA4903F20140510>

### **Syrian Refugees in Turkey Begin to Wear Out Their Welcome**

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Turkey was home to less than 200,000 Syrian refugees at the start of 2013, but the patience of many Turkish citizens is running thin as that figure hovers around 700,000. With no sign of the conflict in Syria abating, that number is expected to more than double this year.

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Time, 8 May 2014, Syrian Refugees in Turkey Begin to Wear Out Their Welcome

<http://time.com/92343/syrian-refugees-in-turkey-begin-to-wear-out-their-welcome/>

With Conspiracy-Minded Intrigue, Life Imitates Fiction in Turkey

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Istanbul as an urban tableau of intrigue is well-worn literary and cultural terrain, traveled by Graham Greene and Ian Fleming and by more contemporary spy novelists such as Joseph Kanon and Alex Berenson.

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So perhaps, given the events that have been occupying Istanbul's elite of late, Oscar Wilde was not only correct but also prescient when he wrote, "Life imitates art far more than art imitates life."

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New York Times, 5 May 2014, With Conspiracy-Minded Intrigue, Life Imitates Fiction in Turkey  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/06/world/europe/with-conspiracy-minded-intrigue-life-imitates-fiction-in-turkey.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/06/world/europe/with-conspiracy-minded-intrigue-life-imitates-fiction-in-turkey.html?_r=0)

### **Turkish party keeps term limit, hinting at Erdogan presidency**

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Turkey's ruling AK Party decided on Friday to maintain a three-term limit for its deputies, the clearest signal yet that Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan will run in the nation's first direct election for president in August.

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Reuters, 2 May 2014, Turkish party keeps term limit, hinting at Erdogan presidency
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/02/us-turkey-election-idUSBREA410U820140502>

Turkish President Signs Bill Expanding Spy Agency's Power

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Turkey's president signed legislation on Friday that granted more authority to the national spy agency, a measure that critics say will bolster Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's control over state institutions.

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New York Times, 25 April 2014, Turkish Leader Signs Bill Expanding Spy Agency's Power  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/26/world/europe/turkish-leader-signs-bill-expanding-spy-agencys-power.html>

### **Turkey dismisses graft case against ex-minister's son**

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Turkish prosecutors dismissed a case against 60 suspects, among them a former minister's son and a construction tycoon, in the graft scandal swirling around Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's inner circle, media said on Friday.

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Reuters, 2 May 2014, Turkey dismisses graft case against ex-minister's son

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/02/turkey-corruption-idUSL6N0NO1PD20140502>

Economy & Energy

Turkey should increase efficiency in manufacturing to accomplish 2023 goals, TÜSİAD leader

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Turkey needs to ramp up its competitive power through efficiency and increase the manufacturing of higher value-added goods to avoid the middle-income trap, the head of Turkey's leading business organization has said.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 22 May 2014, Turkey should increase efficiency in manufacturing to accomplish 2023 goals, TÜSİAD leader

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-should-increase-efficiency-in-manufacturing-to-accomplish-2023-goals-tusiad-leader.aspx?pageID=238&nID=66840&NewsCatID=344>

#### **S&P Affirms Turkey at BB+, Keeps Outlook Negative**

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Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirms its rating on Turkey at BB+, keeping it within junk territory.

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The firm said that the country's policy environment has become "less predictable," which would jeopardize its resilience to external shocks and hurt long-term growth. S&P also said Turkey's current-account deficit, which measures trade, is high, despite some narrowing as export growth improves.

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Wall Street Journal, 23 May 2014, S&P Affirms Turkey at BB+, Keeps Outlook Negative

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303480304579579100045329672?KEYWORDS=Turkey&mg=reno64-wsj>

First cargo of Iraqi Kurdistan pipeline oil sold to Europe

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The first cargo of oil piped from Iraqi Kurdistan was sold to European markets and the revenue will be deposited in Turkey's Halkbank, the autonomous region said in a statement.

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The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) said sales from the Turkish port of Ceyhan would continue despite opposition from the federal government in Baghdad, which has threatened legal action against any company involved in "smuggling" Iraqi oil.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 23 May 2014, First cargo of Iraqi Kurdistan pipeline oil sold to Europe

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/first-cargo-of-iraqi-kurdistan-pipeline-oil-sold-to-europe.aspx?pageID=238&nID=66868&NewsCatID=348>

### **Iraq files arbitration request against Turkey over Kurdish oil**

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The Iraqi government filed a request on Friday for arbitration against Turkey and pipeline firm BOTAS with the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce over the selling of oil from Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

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Reuters, 23 May 2014, Iraq files arbitration request against Turkey over Kurdish oil

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL6N0093VP20140523>

Ankara, Washington agree on close contact over transatlantic deal

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Turkey's top economy officials have repeated Ankara's strong desire to be included in the transatlantic free trade talks during a meeting with their American counterparts, where parties declared their commitment to work closer for better trade ties.

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Turkey has been pressuring to join the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) scheme between the United States and the European Union, arguing the country's Customs Union (CU) alliance with the latter would cause great damage to its economy if such deal is reached.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 15 May 2014 Ankara, Washington agree on close contact over transatlantic deal

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/ankara-washington-agree-on-close-contact-over-transatlantic-deal.aspx?pageID=238&nID=66504&NewsCatID=344>



### **Turkey eyes EU customs union as U.S. trade talks progress**

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Turkey would find it very hard to continue in a customs union with Europe if the country is excluded from a free trade deal with the United States, but quitting the union is not an option, Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said on Thursday.

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Reuters, 15 May 2014, Turkey eyes EU customs union as U.S. trade talks progress

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/15/us-usa-trade-turkey-idUSBREA4E0XB20140515>

Turkey's Borsa Istanbul dismisses three senior staff

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Borsa Istanbul, Turkey's state-run stock exchange, has dismissed three senior personnel after a restructuring eliminated their jobs, an official at the exchange told Reuters on Wednesday.

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It was not immediately clear whether the dismissals were linked to a series of purges at other state institutions in recent weeks after a high-level corruption scandal broke late last year.

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Reuters, 7 May 2014, Turkey's Borsa Istanbul dismisses three senior staff

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/07/turkey-bourse-dismissals-idUSL6N0NT2YP20140507>

### **Koç family dominates Turkey's tax list**

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Koç Holding Honorary President Rahmi Koç has outshined Turkey's top-notch businessmen and media figures to become the biggest taxpayer, according to the top 100 list that was dominated by his family in 2013 as well.

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All top six spots in the ranking have been held by Koç family members, who paid around 120 million Turkish Liras' worth of income tax to the state in 2013, according to 100 top income tax payers list announced by the Finance Ministry's Income Administration office.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 4 May 2014, Koç family dominates Turkey's tax list

http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/Default.aspx?pageID=238&nid=65944&NewsCatID=344&utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_content=23327&utm_campaign=0

Washington

Selected
News on **Turkey**



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