



June 2014

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Foreign Policy

After Opening Way to Rebels, Turkey Is Paying Heavy Price

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Turkey allowed rebel groups of any stripe easy access to the battlefields in Syria in an effort to topple President Bashar al-Assad. But this created fertile ground in Syria for the development of the Sunni militant group that launched a blitzkrieg in Iraq this month, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

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New York Times, 24 June 2014, After Opening Way to Rebels, Turkey Is Paying Heavy Price

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/25/world/europe/after-opening-way-to-rebels-turkey-is-paying-heavy-price.html>

#### US adopts bill on Christian properties in Turkey

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The U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs has adopted a bill on monitoring the return of property confiscated from Christians in Turkey and Northern Cyprus.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 27 June 2014, US adopts bill on Christian properties in Turkey

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/us-adopts-bill-on-christian-properties-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68354&NewsCatID=359>



President Gül meets with US envoy Ricciardone in Istanbul

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Turkish President Abdullah Gül met with outgoing U.S. ambassador to Ankara Francis Ricciardone on June 20 in Istanbul.

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Ricciardone's tenure in Turkey will end in July. The Obama administration has nominated John Bass, the former ambassador to Georgia and a special assistant to Secretary of State John Kerry, to replace the outgoing envoy as the United States' envoy to Ankara.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 20 June 2014, President Gül meets with US envoy Ricciardone in Istanbul

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-gul-meets-with-us-envoy-ricciardone-in-istanbul-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68077&NewsCatID=510>

### **Iraq Breakup Made Easier by Turkey's Détente With Kurds**

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The neighbor that a decade ago was most intent upon keeping Iraq together is now allied with its most ardent separatists—the Kurds—removing a key obstacle to the dismemberment of Iraq as Sunni Muslim extremists gain territory

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Time, 19 June 2014, Iraq Breakup Made Easier by Turkey's Détente With Kurds

<http://time.com/2898883/iraq-turkey-kurd-isis/>

Turkey reshuffles key envoys

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A long-awaited decree reshuffling the Foreign Ministry's key diplomats has been finalized with appointments to crucial posts like Moscow, Tehran, Rome and Madrid. One of the most important reshuffles is the appointment of deputy undersecretary Ömer Önhon, who was responsible for the Middle East, particularly Syria, to Madrid as Turkey's ambassador. Önhon had to leave Damascus, where he was Turkey's ambassador, after Ankara broke ties with the Bashar al-Assad regime in 2011.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 23 June 2014, Turkey reshuffles key envoys

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-reshuffles-key-envoys---.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68144&NewsCatID=510>



### **Militants Storm Turkish Consulate in Iraqi City, Taking 49 People as Hostages**

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The Turkish government reacted with alarm on Wednesday to the seizure of the country's consul general and his staff by militants in Mosul, Iraq, vowing to retaliate if any of its citizens are wounded.

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New York Times, 11 June 2014, Militants Storm Turkish Consulate in Iraqi City, Taking 49 People as Hostages

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/12/world/middleeast/militants-seize-turkish-consulate-staff-in-mosul.html>

Erdoğan-Biden on call again, as Ankara sets up crisis desk on Iraq

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U.S. Vice President Joe Biden has discussed the growing insurgency in Iraq with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for the second time in three days, while Ankara established a crisis desk to inform the Turkish public daily about 80 Turks taken hostage by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in northern Iraq.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 13 June 2014, Erdoğan-Biden on call again, as Ankara sets up crisis desk on Iraq

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/erdogan-biden-on-call-again-as-ankara-sets-up-crisis-desk-on-iraq.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67769&NewsCatID=510>

### **Insurgents' Iraq advance poses security, economic risk for Turkey**

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The advance of Sunni militants in Iraq leaves Turkey facing a widening Islamist insurgency in two of its southern neighbors, endangering domestic security, threatening important trade routes and forcing it again to rethink Middle Eastern policies.

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Reuters, 13 June 2014, Insurgents' Iraq advance poses security, economic risk for Turkey

<http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN0EO1JY20140613?irpc=932>

Turkey, EU to talk over judicial reforms

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Ankara and Brussels will continue to work on Turkey's efforts to harmonize its legislation on issues concerning judiciary and fundamental rights along with criteria set in Chapter 23 during EU Commissioner Stefan Füle's two-day trip to Ankara.

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Füle arrived in Ankara on June 16 afternoon. He will hold his first meeting with EU Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu before being hosted over dinner by President Abdullah Gül.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 16 June 2014, Turkey, EU to talk over judicial reforms  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-eu-to-talk-over-judicial-reforms-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67859&NewsCatID=510>

### **Iran's Rouhani in Turkey in bid to boost ties**

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Hassan Rouhani, the Iranian president, has said that, Turkey and Iran are two important countries in the Islamic world and determined to stand against violence and extremism in the Middle East.

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Rouhani said the words on a two-day visit to Turkey to discuss energy and trade ties as well as the Syrian crisis which has strained relations between the two neighbours in the recent years.

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Al-Jazeera, 9 June 2014, Iran's Rouhani in Turkey in bid to boost ties
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/06/energy-syria-top-rouhani-turkey-agenda-2014697185480447.html>

Turkey, US to hold talks on regional, bilateral issues

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High-level Turkish and American diplomats will hold meetings in Washington Monday and Tuesday to exchange views about bilateral, regional and global issues, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement on June 7.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 7 June 2014, Turkey, US to hold talks on regional, bilateral issues  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-us-to-hold-talks-on-regional-bilateral-issues.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67521&NewsCatID=510>

### **Top US diplomat's special assistant to take Turkey post**



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The Obama administration has nominated John Bass, the former ambassador to Georgia and a special assistant to Secretary of State John Kerry, to replace the outgoing envoy Francis Ricciardone as the United States' envoy to Ankara.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 4 June 2014, Top US diplomat's special assistant to take Turkey post
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/top-us-diplomats-special-assistant-to-take-turkey-post.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67375&NewsCatID=510>

Top American-Turkish Council officials resign over corruption probe row

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Top executives of the main bilateral business association between Turkey and the United States, the Washington-based American-Turkish Council (ATC), announced their resignation June 1, following government pressure in the aftermath of the corruption probe.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 3 June 2014, Top American-Turkish Council officials resign over corruption probe row  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/top-american-turkish-council-officials-resign-over-corruption-probe-row.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67314&NewsCatID=345>

### **European Parliament election results alarm Ankara**

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Ankara has voiced concern over the rise of xenophobic, anti-immigration, Euroskeptic and extremist parties, noting that Turkey has long been worried about increasing support for such policies across the continent.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 29 May 2014, European Parliament election results alarm Ankara
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/european-parliament-election-results-alarm-ankara.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67131&NewsCatID=510>

Domestic Politics

Erdogan, Survivor of Protests and Inquiries, to Seek Presidency in Turkey

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Having withstood the challenges to his rule from angry street protests and a corruption inquiry, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday announced that he will run for Turkey's presidency in elections next month, a move that is likely to position him as the country's dominant political figure for years to come.

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New York Times, 1 July 2014, Erdogan, Survivor of Protests and Inquiries, to Seek Presidency in Turkey  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/02/world/europe/erdogan-survivor-of-protests-and-inquiries-to-see-turkeys-presidency.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/02/world/europe/erdogan-survivor-of-protests-and-inquiries-to-see-turkeys-presidency.html?_r=0)

### **Incoming TÜSİAD boss warns of 'rising polarization' in Turkey**

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The new head of Turkey's top business organization has said Turkey's largest problem is "severe social polarization," while vowing to "avoid taking sides," speaking at his first comprehensive meeting with the media after taking the post two weeks ago.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 25 June 2014, Incoming TÜSİAD boss warns of 'rising polarization' in Turkey
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/incoming-tusiad-boss-warns-of-rising-polarization-in-turkey.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68255&NewsCatID=345>

Landmark ruling frees Turkish officers in Sledgehammer case

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Turkey's Constitutional Court (AYM), the highest legal authority in the country, made a unanimous decision on June 18, ruling that the lower courts' verdict — convicting retired and serving military officers of plotting a coup to bring down the pro-Islamist Justice and Development Party (AKP) government in 2003 under a plan code-named "Sledgehammer" — had violated their right to fair trial. Since this landmark decision, all 237 officers behind bars in relation to the Sledgehammer case have been released.

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Al-Monitor, 20 June 2014, Landmark ruling frees Turkish officers in Sledgehammer case  
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/06/daloglu-turkish-military-officers-ruling-sledgehammer.html#ixzz35G3fyrFj>

### **A challenger in Turkey**

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Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, finally has a challenger in August's presidential elections. The main opposition parties, the Republican People's Party (CHP) and Nationalist Action Party (MHP), just announced an agreement to nominate the former head of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, as their joint presidential candidate.

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Indian Express, 20 June 2014, A challenger in Turkey

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/a-challenger-in-turkey/#.U6ZM2nDnuDg.facebook>

Turkey's main opposition parties to nominate ex-head of Islamic body İhsanoğlu for presidency

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The two major opposition parties represented at the Turkish Parliament have finally announced their agreement for nominating the former head of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, as their joint presidential candidate.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 16 June 2014, Turkey's main opposition parties to nominate ex-head of Islamic body İhsanoğlu for presidency

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-main-opposition-parties-to-nominate-ex-head-of-islamic-body-ihsanoglu-for-presidency.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67850&NewsCatID=338>

### **Kurds key to current Turkish politics; domestic and foreign**

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Developments in Turkish foreign and domestic politics have entered a dangerous collision course, less than two months before the first round of presidential elections on Aug. 10.

The common denominator of developments in current Turkish foreign and domestic politics is the Kurdish issue. In domestic politics, the role of the Kurdish issue in the presidential elections is becoming more visible every day.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 16 June 2014, Kurds key to current Turkish politics; domestic and foreign

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/kurds-key-to-current-turkish-politics-domestic-and-foreign.aspx?pageID=449&nID=67838&NewsCatID=409>

Head of Turkey's top business association TUSIAD resigns

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The chairman of the Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD), Muharrem Yılmaz, surprisingly submitted his resignation June 4 over a labor crisis in his own company. He was elected as TÜSİAD chairman during the business association's 43rd general congress on Jan. 13, 2013.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 4 June 2014, Head of Turkey's top business association TÜSİAD resigns

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/head-of-turkeys-top-business-association-tusiad-resigns.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67394&NewsCatID=345>

### **Parliamentary panel begins probing Soma mine disaster**

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The parliamentary panel tasked to investigate the fatal mine accident in Soma began its work June 9 with the purpose of submitting a report to Parliament for future legal amendments on labor safety to prevent similar accidents. The May 13 Soma coal mining tragedy was the largest industrial disaster in the country's recent history, causing the deaths of 301 workers.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 9 June 2014, Parliamentary panel begins probing Soma mine disaster

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/parliamentary-panel-begins-probing-soma-mine-disaster.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67576&NewsCatID=338>

Turkey Lifts Ban on YouTube Access

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Turkey's telecommunications watchdog lifted a ban on YouTube on Tuesday, ending a two-month blockade that raised concerns at home and abroad that the country was creating a new model for authoritarian censorship.

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Wall Street Journal, 3 June 2014, Turkey Lifts Ban on YouTube Access

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/turkey-lifts-ban-on-youtube-access-1401804782>

### **Turkish police tear gas protesters on Taksim anniversary**

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Turkish police have used tear gas to disperse demonstrators in Istanbul and Ankara on the first anniversary of deadly anti-government protests. Some 25,000 police surrounded and blocked Istanbul's Taksim Square, the epicentre of the 2013 rallies.

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BBC, 31 May 2014, Turkish police tear gas protesters on Taksim anniversary

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27649472>

A Year After Gezi Park Protests, Turkey's Erdogan Still Has Strong Grip on Power

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Gezi Park, the leafy Istanbul spot that emerged at the center of mass demonstrations here a year ago, remains a symbol of antigovernment defiance.

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But the protests, which still flare up in Turkish cities almost daily, haven't translated into a broad political coalition against Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has led the country for 12 years.

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Wall Street Journal, 30 May 2014, A Year After Gezi Park Protests, Turkey's Erdogan Still Has Strong Grip on Power

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/turkeys-erdogan-strong-a-year-after-gezi-park-protests-1401473535?KEYWORDS=Turkey>

### **Turkey's Top Court Rules YouTube Ban is Unconstitutional**

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Turkey's top court on Thursday ruled that a ban on YouTube is unconstitutional, paving the way to lift the two-month blockade, after the government cut off access to Google Inc. video-sharing website for publishing leaked state secrets just days before critical March elections.

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Wall Street Journal, 29 May 2014, Turkey's Top Court Rules YouTube Ban is Unconstitutional

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/turkeys-top-court-rules-youtube-ban-is-unconstitutional-1401377622?KEYWORDS=Turkey>

CNN Reporter Detained in Turkey While Live on Air

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A CNN reporter was detained in Turkey Saturday while filming a live news report on demonstrations marking the one-year anniversary of the Taksim Square protests.

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Ivan Watson, the news channel's correspondent in Istanbul, was in Taksim Square when he was approached by police officers and asked to show his passport. Watson displayed his press card to the police and the still-rolling camera before being pulled away by officers.



Time, 31 May 2014, CNN Reporter Detained in Turkey While Live on Air

<http://time.com/2803275/cnn-reporter-detained-turkey-live/>

Economy & Energy

Turkey third in income inequality, says TÜSİAD

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Chairman Haluk Dinçer of the Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (TÜSİAD) said on Friday that Turkey ranks third among the countries with the highest levels of income inequality.

Daily Zaman, 27 June 2014, Turkey third in income inequality, says TÜSİAD

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-351545-turkey-third-in-income-inequality-says-tusiad.html>

Econ 101 Is Bunk to Turkey's Erdogan in Debate on Interest Rates Role

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The Turkish leader, 60, is emerging as a global pioneer of putting an untested theory of economics into action. While central bankers around the world, including Turkey's, have made interest rate decisions based on the textbook assumption that higher rates will work to slow inflation, Erdogan and his administration argue the opposite.

Bloomberg, 30 June 2014, Econ 101 Is Bunk to Turkey's Erdogan in Debate on Interest Rates Role

http://mobile.businessweek.com/news/2014-06-29/econ-101-is-bunk-to-erdogan-in-debate-on-interest-rates-role?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_content=23327&utm_campaign=0

First tranche of Kurdish Iraqi oil revenue deposited in Turkey's Halkbank: Minister

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Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yıldız said the third tanker carrying oil from the semi-autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan has departed Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, announcing payments from the oil sales are now being transferred to Turkey's state-run Halk Bank.

Hurriyet Daily News, 23 June 2014, First tranche of Kurdish Iraqi oil revenue deposited in Turkey's Halkbank: Minister



<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/first-tranche-of-kurdish-iraqi-oil-revenue-deposited-in-turkeys-halkbank-minister.aspx?pageID=238&nID=68145&NewsCatID=348>

Israel accepts 1st delivery of disputed Kurdish pipeline oil

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A tanker delivered a cargo of disputed crude oil from Iraqi Kurdistan's new pipeline for the first time on Friday in Israel, despite threats by Baghdad to take legal action against any buyer.

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Reuters, 20 June 2014, Israel accepts 1st delivery of disputed Kurdish pipeline oil

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/06/20/israel-iraq-idUKL6NOP11TE20140620>

### **The great airspace race: Can Turkish Airlines continue to soar?**

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Turkish Airlines has gone from strength to strength in recent years, adding new routes across Europe and Asia as well as expanding into Africa. But with many ambitious competitors also expanding across the Gulf and the Middle East, can the Turkish aviation vision continue to soar? John Defterios spoke to the airline's CEO, Temel Kotil, to find out.

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CNN, 23 June 2014, The great airspace race: Can Turkish Airlines continue to soar?

http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/20/world/meast/turkish-airlines-ceo-mme/index.html?sr=sharebar_facebook

Turkey could cut rates this month if inflation falling – Basci

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Turkey's central bank could cut interest rates as soon as next week if it is convinced that the outlook for inflation is improving significantly, Governor Erdem Basci said.

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Reuters, 16 June 2014, Turkey could cut rates this month if inflation falling – Basci

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/06/16/turkey-cenbank-idINL5N0OX26220140616>

### **Turkey needs fiscal reforms to sustain growth: World Bank report**

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In order to maintain sustainable growth, Turkey needs to introduce necessary reforms to increase national savings and reduce its dependency on consumption-based revenues and short-term capital flows, the World Bank has said in a new report.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 5 June 2014, Turkey needs fiscal reforms to sustain growth: World Bank report
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-needs-fiscal-reforms-to-sustain-growth-world-bank-report.aspx?PageID=238&NID=67401&NewsCatID=344>

Turkey, Iraqi Kurdistan agree on '50-year energy accord'

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Turkey and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) have signed a 50-year deal to export Kurdish oil, the prime minister of the administration has announced amid the ongoing spat between Baghdad and Arbil.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 5 June 2014, Turkey, Iraqi Kurdistan agree on '50-year energy accord'  
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-iraqi-kurdistan-agree-on-50-year-energy-accord.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67428&NewsCatID=348>

### **Kurdish oil flow continues in defiance of Baghdad's legal move: Turkish energy minister**

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Kurdish oil from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to the southern Turkish port of Ceyhan continues at 100,000 to 120,000 barrels, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yıldız has said.

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Answering reporters' questions in Ankara yesterday, the minister said oil flow is continuing, despite Baghdad's legal move.

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Hurriyet Daily News, 29 May 2014, Kurdish oil flow continues in defiance of Baghdad's legal move: Turkish energy minister
<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/kurdish-oil-flow-continues-in-defiance-of-baghdads-legal-move-turkish-energy-minister.aspx?pageID=238&nID=67149&NewsCatID=348>