

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## PROTESTS CONTINUE, LOCAL RESISTANCE COMMITTEES FOUNDED, GOVERNMENT PRESS TITLES GIVEN WORDS

- **Erdogan back in Turkey, declares government will not step down “until the end”**
  - **Protests continue, local committees of organization**
  - **FSA provokes police**

In Turkey, the protests continued in several cities on 6th of June, which is the 11th day of the resistance.

Demonstrations were carried out in 14 cities; Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Hatay, Bursa, Ordu being among them.

In some cities, like Hatay and Bursa, resisters formed local committees. These committees consist of important local leaders in the neighbourhoods and local political party representatives. They organize the protests and provide security during them.



In Istanbul, the sit-in act went on in Taksim Square. During day-time, two important support protests were carried out in Istanbul. 2 thousand academics marched in support of the protesters to the Gezi Park. Among the slogans they chanted during the march were “Capulcu (Pillagers) are here, where is Tayyip” and “Tayyip Resign”. The second supportive demo was that of TGS (Journalists Union of Turkey). Members and administrators of the union also marched together to Gezi Park.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan returned from his state visit to North Africa. It drew attention that the plane of Erdogan arrived in Istanbul at 2 o'clock in the night. In a press statement in Tunisia, Erdogan declared “until the end the government will not step down”.

Istanbul was awaiting the return of Erdogan and thousands were on the streets. At 9.00 PM, the lights went out again and the pots and pans were banged, once more.

In Istanbul, in the evening there were several protests in the districts of the city but the outstanding protest was that in Gazi district. In Gazi, about 40 thousand people rallied in the protest. The protesters were all from the neighbourhood.

A similar protest was carried out in Ankara, as well. In Batıkent, about 35 thousand people rallied for the protest and it turned into a local public meeting.

In Antalya, an attack to the protesters by plainclothes policemen carrying sticks has been reported. There are also reports that in Hatay members of the Free Syrian Army, dressed like protesters, attacked the police with stones. Hatay is a city on the border of Syria where terror camps were established during the last years. It is evaluated that these acts were carried out as provocations to undermine the protests.

Today, six daily newspapers published in Turkey using the same headline word for word drew attention. All of these newspapers used Erdogan's phrase “supreme sacrifice to democratic demands” as headline.

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## *Signs of new possible approximations in the Near East* **SYRIA BREATHEAS EASIER WITH GEZI PARK**

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### *Summary:*

*Resistance in Turkey proves positive for the Syrian resistance against imperialism. Helped by the protests in Turkey, the only uncontrolled frontier of Syria is getting less permissive for the terrorists.*

*Its own seeing its own stability shaken and observing the consensus between the US and Russia at the Geneva conference, the government party AKP (Party of Justice and Development) seems not in the position to struggle with Syria. Turkish Armed Forces appears controlling the border more actively.*

*The Result: Turkish-Syrian border is by far less permissive to mass transitions and smuggle.*

*FSA (Free Syria Army) gangs react. They open fire at the Turkish soldiers and try to provoke Turkish police forces against the resistance in Turkey.*

*Current developments show also signs of new approximations between groups as well as ideological changes. The approach of Iran towards Turkey is in a complete change.*

*Meanwhile, especially the city of Antakya is one of the main centers of the current protests in Turkey. As the Workers' Party participates organizing the meetings first-hand, it is observed that the meetings and demonstrations it had organized against the terror camps before prepared the town to the protests of now.*

The new equation in the Near East is as follows: As Erdogan loses, Esad wins and vice-versa. Or as the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan puts it: "It is either him or me that will leave." The resistance that takes place in Turkey seems to affect the conditions and the power balance in Syria and the whole Middle East.

The Syrian government has ensured the control of the western border by liberating the strategic town of Quasar. The Nuri Maliki government in Iraq provides safety of the eastern border. The southern borders are in safe condition as the terrorists are wiped out in great extend from the Golan Heights. The sole remaining dangerous border is the northern one with Turkey.

### **Turkish-Syrian Border: Uprising against Erdogan, Peace with Syria**

International public opinion mainly focused on the Gezi Park resistance. However, protests occur not only in whole Turkey, but especially in the frontier cities like Gaziantep and Antakya.

Turkey's American-led Syrian policy in general and the camps that shelter terrorists under the name of refugees are some important reasons for the countrywide resistance.

The Workers' Party organized several rallies in Antakya against the terror camps and in favor of peace with

Syria. It turns out today that these rallies prepared the ground for the resistance of today. The Workers' Party keeps to be one of the leading political forces of the resistance in Antakya today.

### **AKP government puzzled**

The AKP on the other hand today struggles to stay in power. Returning from Africa, Prime Minister tried to show strength by rejecting all demands of the resistance. But he has also used words of someone pretty concerned: “We won't step down from power until the end.”

The government is very busy these days: dealing with criticism from the Western World; the President Abdullah Gul who appears under the “good-cop” role and criticizes Erdogan indirectly; and the economic crisis that is about to hit and that already has affected the rates of exchange in foreign currency. The rescue of the power looks like the most urgent and difficult problem for Erdogan, and Syria nowadays seems far away.

The consensus between the US and Russia to organize the Geneva conference and the decreased chances of intervention to Syria had caused the government to hesitate already before.

### **Reflection on the Syrian border: Relative tranquility**

As a result of these developments the Turkish state has limited the mass transitions through the Syrian border. So the route of supplies and supports to the gangs in Syria has experienced major problems.

Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) show increased will to limit the border traffic of the gangs. TSK declared in press conference that between May 31st and June 6th they've arrested 2039 people for crossing the Syrian border illegally. They've also seized 109kg narcotics, 57 tons of gasoline, 39 rifles and 97 cell-phones. It is a known fact that the gangs smuggle over the border to create financial income.

On top of it, protests and the solid opposition showcased against the AKP-government in cities like Antakya has restrained the Syrian terrorists movements in the region. It is planned to move the camps to Turkey's interior, what will make their use as a daily basis for attacks in Syria impossible.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's attempt to protect Syrian “refugees” from local discontent after the May bombing in Antakya has not worked out. Instead, now the protesters in Ankara sprayed on the Foreign Ministry's wall: “Davutoglu murderer!”

### **FSA reaction: Attack against the Turkish Army and provocation against protestors**

FSA is in worry and disorganization. Gangs had clashed with the Turkish police forces before already. Now they fire at The Turkish Army in order to drag Turkey into a war. At the same time, FSA members try to provoke the police forces against the protestors in Antakya.

### **Iran evaluating positively Turkish resistance**

A development that can change the face of the whole Middle East has occurred in Iran. Government-friendly media supports the Turkish resistance clearly.

This is a great change for Iran, which was rather distant to the Turkish secular government structure due to its own religious tendency. Taking side with Turkish protest movement, where Kemalism plays a determining role, reflects a great change.

Iran's position was summarized by the local experts to the Workers' Party: although starting from an Islamic point, the Turkish AKP-government now follows more the Saudi Arabian line. But in Iran, a “pro-American Islam” isn't considered Islamic.

The new approach opens way to a possible alliance between Iran under Sharia rule and a revolutionary, Kemalist Turkey on the grounds of anti-imperialism and independence.



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## SOME OF WORKERS' PARTY'S ACTIONS IN SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIA

On the 16th of September 2012, a “Turkey Syria Fraternity Meeting” took place in Hatay. Tens of thousands gathered in Hatay in the leadership of the Workers' Party (Turkey) against the hostile Syria policies of the AKP administration, despite the preventing efforts of the governorate and the police.



On the 26th of November 2012, Workers' Party (Turkey) General Treasurer Mustafa Güleç made a press statement against the deployment of Patriot Missile Systems in Turkey. He emphasized that there are no threats from Syria against Turkey but the threats are coming from the USA and NATO.

On the 22nd of December 2012, the Vanguard Women, the Women Branch of the Workers' Party (Turkey) organized a “Turkish-Syria Fraternity, Close down the terror camps, No to War!” meeting in Hatay. Syrian women organized a simultaneously public demonstration in Latakia to support the struggle of the women in Turkey.

On the 21st of January 2013, protest demonstration was carried out in Iskenderun Hatay against the deployment of Patriot Missile Systems.

On the 11th of March 2013, Workers' Party (Turkey) Deputy Chairman Bayram Yurtçiçek filed a criminal complaint against the terrorist Apaydın Camp in Hatay.

On the 5th of April 2013, Ulusal Kanal broadcasted an exclusive interview with the President of the Syrian Arab Republic Bashar al-Asad. The interview was made in Damascus by the Chief Editor of Ulusal Kanal and a reporter of the daily newspaper Aydınlık.



On the 11th of May 2013, Workers' Party (Turkey) Vice-Chairman Hasan Basri Özbey made a press statement about the bombing attacks in Reyhanlı Hatay. He pointed out that the co-presidency of the Greater Middle East Project was responsible of the attacks.

On the 18th of May 2013, a protest against the bombing attacks was organized in Hatay. Workers' Party (Turkey) participated in the protest organized by the Turkey-Syria Fraternity Platform.

On the 29th of May 2013, a trial of Workers' Party (Turkey) Vice-Chairman Hasan Basri Özbey together with 35 administrators of the Party began in Hatay because of the “Turkey - Syria Fraternity Meeting” in Hatay on the 16th of September 2012.