



# MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

## GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

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## 1. IRAQ,

- **Qubad Talabani Meets Iranian consul**

Deputy prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government Qubad Talabani discussed with Consul General of Iran Morteza Ebadi political, economic and military situation in the Kurdistan region and the region. Talabani praised during the meeting, according to a statement to the Government of the Kurdistan region, "Iran's role in the face of the terrorist organization Daash, stressing the desire of the provincial government in the development of its relations with Iran and neighboring countries.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?q90XBUYAvDAmVffOXR0YHA%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?q90XBUYAvDAmVffOXR0YHA%253d%253d)

- **GE signs \$328 mln maintenance agreement with Iraq**

Iraqi Ministry of Electricity announced, that General Electric (GE) has agreed on a \$328.8 million deal with Iraq in order to increase its electricity production capacity by 1,000 megawatts, while pointed out that the agreement will provide the needed equipment to ten stations in the country. The ministry's Spokesman Musab al-Mudaris said in a statement followed by IraqiNews.com, "Today, Ministry of Electricity will sign a maintenance agreement of 328 million dollars with General Electric company," pointing out that, "General Electric will provide the needed equipment to ten power stations in the country."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/business-iraqi-dinar/ge-signs-328-mln-maintenance-agreement-with-iraq/>

- **Hakim Meets Barham Salih**

The head of the Islamic Supreme Council Ammar al-Hakim discussed with Deputy Secretary General of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Barham Salih, developments in the security and political situation in Iraq. According to a statement of the Supreme Council, "The two sides discussed during the meeting, the war on Daash, reforms and bilateral relations between the Supreme Council and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan."

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?q%252fvHugF3IK0eydIzNMFamdA%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?q%252fvHugF3IK0eydIzNMFamdA%253d%253d)

- **Baghdad witnesses first international marathon in 13 years**

Iraqi Athletics Federation announced on Tuesday, that its finished the preparations of Baghdad International Marathon, while pointed out that this marathon is the first of its kind since 2003 and will witness the participation of more than 2000 athletes from different countries. The Federation's Spokesman Maitham al-Hassani said, "The Federation finished all the preparations to launch Baghdad International Marathon on the 29th of January," pointing out that, "The marathon is the first of its kind in Baghdad since 2003."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/features/baghdad-witnesses-the-first-international-marathon-in-13-years/>

- **Zebari Meets Iranian Minister of Energy**

Finance Minister Hoshyar Zebari discussed with Hooshang Falahtian the Iranian Minister of Energy economic cooperation between the two countries. During the meeting, according to a ministry statement, they exchanged views and experiences in the field of electric power and the extent of support that may be provided by Iran in this area.

More Details:

[http://www.ninanews.com/News\\_Details.aspx?kPW7un0k9pfcHARwWrlDog%253d%253d](http://www.ninanews.com/News_Details.aspx?kPW7un0k9pfcHARwWrlDog%253d%253d)

- **Iraqi army foils suicide attack in Sufiyah east of Ramadi**

Anbar Operations Command announced on Tuesday, that the Iraqi army forces had managed to repel a suicide attack that targeted the security forces in al-Sufiyah area east of Ramadi. Maj. Gen. Ismail al-Mahalawi, the commander of Anbar Operations Command, said in a brief statement received by IraqiNews.com, "This evening, an army force belonging to Anbar Operations had managed to repel an attack by a booby-trapped vehicle on the security forces in the area of al-Sufiyah east of Ramadi."

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-army-foils-suicide-attack-sufiyah-east-ramadi/>

- **Iraq pleads for cop trainers to thwart ISIL**

The Pentagon views competent local police as key to the effort to wrest control of Iraqi towns from fighters from the Islamic State, or ISIL, and to maintain order. ISIL fighters swept across large blocs of Iraq in 2014, seizing major cities such as Mosul and Ramadi as Iraqi soldiers and police fled with little resistance. Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city after Baghdad, remains occupied by ISIL fighters.

More Details:

<http://english.shafaaq.com/politics/17333-iraq-pleads-for-cop-trainers-to-thwart-isil.html>

- **Army forces kill, wound 80 “terrorists” in Albu Shajal northwest of Fallujah**

Baghdad Operations Command announced on Tuesday, that 80 “terrorists” had been either killed or wounded during security operations in the area of Albu Shajal northwest of Fallujah. The spokesperson for the command, Gen. Saad Moen, said in a press statement obtained by IraqiNews.com, “Baghdad Operations forces, in coordination with the Iraqi Air Force as well as the international coalition aviation, are continuing in the cleansing operation of Albu Shajal area northwest of Fallujah for the third day in a row,” adding that, “42 terrorists had been killed, including the criminal Tarek Shabal and two suicide bombers, in addition to wounding 38 others and dismantling 31 explosive devices.”

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/army-forces-kill-wound-80-terrorists-albu-shajal-northwest-fallujah/>

- **13 ISIS militants killed, heavy losses sustained in Mosul**

Coalition airplanes' shelling in Gayara killed more than 10 Islamic State terrorists on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, a source confirmed. The warplanes targeted an ISIS post in Safina village of Gayara sub-district and killed more than 10 of the armed militants that were inside the post. 3 more militants were killed in a later shelling in Dirkszlia Street on the left wing of the city of Mosul.

More Details:

[http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN\\_Direje.aspx?Jimare=37597](http://www.pukmedia.com/EN/EN_Direje.aspx?Jimare=37597)

- **Anbar police receives sophisticated American weapons**

The Head of Khalidiya council in Anbar Province announced the distribution of American weapons to the emergency regiments of the provincial police, while pointed out that these weapons are sophisticated and modern. The Head of the council Ali Dawood said in a statement followed by IraqiNews.com: “The Chief of Anbar police Maj. Gen. Hadi Kassar Rseg has distributed American weapons to the police emergency regiments in Habbaniyah Base (30 km east of Ramadi).”

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/anbar-police-receives-american-weapons/>

- **Russia Supplies Arms to Kurds in Iraq**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at an annual news conference that the supplies of Russian arms to the Iraqi Kurds were made through official Baghdad. He explained that, practically as soon as the terrorist threat emerged, when supplying arms to Iraq, Russia took into account the fact that both the government army and the Kurdish militias were fighting against the Islamic State terrorists.

More Details:

<http://southfront.org/russia-supplies-arms-to-kurds-in-iraq/>

- **RSK unmanned aerial surveys take off in Iraq**

RSK Group, a privately-owned environmental consultancy in the UK, has taken to the skies to complete its first aerial survey in southern Iraq using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). This is a first-of-a-kind service, of particular use for oil company clients in Iraq, and will enable safer and more cost effective mapping and surveying of projects, said a statement.

More Details:

[http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN\\_299497.html](http://www.tradearabia.com/news/OGN_299497.html)

- **Iraq sees some flexibility for OPEC, non-OPEC to tackle oil glut**

Iraq, OPEC's second-largest oil producer, sees some flexibility for a deal between the exporter group and rival producers to tackle a supply glut that has pushed prices to a 12-year low, Oil Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi said on Tuesday. His comments, made in Kuwait, briefly boosted world oil prices further above \$30 a barrel, although such an idea has been repeatedly mooted and dismissed for over a year.

More Details:

<http://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/iraq-sees-some-flexibility-for-opecc-non-opecc-to-tackle-oil-glut/>

- **Concerns about Fatigue Mount as Iraqi Troops Prepare to Retake Mosul**

Elite Iraqi troops have taken the lead wherever the country's military forces have had success on the battlefield, and they are expected to do the same in the long-delayed campaign to wrest Mosul back from the Islamic State. The so-called Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) troops "are the best light infantry the Iraqis have," said Sen. Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island and the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said of the CTS troops.

More Details:

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/01/26/concerns-about-fatigue-mount-iraqi-troops-prepare-retake-mosul.html>

- **Veteran Thanks Bernie Sanders for Voting Against Iraq War in Viral Open Letter**

A letter penned by a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps thanking Bernie Sanders for his NO vote on the Iraq War is going viral. Tuesday morning, Reddit user CharlieDarwinsFather authored a post titled “An open letter to Bernie Sanders from a Veteran of the Iraq War” and submitted it to the SandersforPresident subreddit, an online community where supporters of the Vermont U.S. Senator share links about the anti-establishment presidential candidate.

More Details:

<http://usuncut.com/politics/open-letter-to-bernie-from-iraqi-veteran/>

- **Time for Arab-Iraqi rapprochement**

In an interview published in this newspaper on Saturday, Iraqi Defense Minister Khaled Al-Obaidi said that Iraq’s current government “has announced its political favoritism by opening up to all Arab brothers without exceptions.” The minister specifically talked about Saudi Arabia saying that it is “an important country that has a place in the Arab, Islamic, regional and international community. We need to help it, and if we received an invitation to visit the Kingdom, we are ready to respond to it and meet our Saudi brothers and leaders. Certainly, Saudi’s cooperation with us will have a significant impact on the fight against Daesh.”

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/columns/news/871186>

- **Colbert won’t let up on Rumsfeld until He Admits Iraq War was based on Lies**

Donald Rumsfeld is looking like a meager old man these days. When he sat down with Stephen Colbert Monday night he looked like a typical grandfather rather than the true spawn of pure evil that he is. Colbert, who is fast turning into a master of working Republicans for all they’re worth, did a fantastic job of word manipulation until he basically got the former Secretary of Defense to admit that there are things that were “unknown yet known” that should have been passed on to the American people, to congress and to the world before we engaged in a war responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people.

More Details:

<http://www.ifyouonlynews.com/humor/watch-colbert-wont-let-up-on-rumsfeld-until-he-admits-iraqi-war-was-based-on-lies-video/>

- **Declassified Memo Proves the Pentagon Had ZERO Evidence of WMDs in Iraq**

Thirteen years after the invasion and occupation of Iraq, it is common knowledge that this war of choice was based on fabrications and slick propaganda. There were no weapons of mass destruction, the country posed no real threat to the U.S., and it was not a hotbed of terrorism until after Saddam was deposed. Now, a bombshell has dropped in the form of a leaked classified report—a “smoking gun” if you will—that confirms the utter deception carried out on the American people to support the invasion. It demonstrates just how far the cabal under George W. Bush, making up a group known as the Project for the New American Century (PNAC), would go to prey upon fear in pursuit of global hegemony.

More Details:

<http://www.activistpost.com/2016/01/declassified-memo-proves-the-pentagon-had-zero-evidence-of-wmds-in-iraq.html>

- **Four years after last homecoming, JBLM rocket battalion headed back to Iraq**

Sgt. Stephen Perras’ parents had understandable questions when they learned he’d spend much of this year in Iraq and Kuwait. It’s his first deployment, and it might take him to the fight against the Islamic State. That’s where his platoon sergeant, Zachary Wilkerson, stepped in. Sgt. 1st Class Wilkerson is about to leave for his fifth deployment in a 10-year run. He has a calming effect on parents.

More Details:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/military/article56743698.html>

- **Military Sources: US Delta Forces On Secret Mission in Iraq**

Military sources disclosed on Tuesday that the elite US Delta Forces are carrying out a clandestine operation in Iraq. "The CIA is the mastermind of the secret dispatch of the US special forces who are now in Iraq under the name of Delta Force," the Arabic-language media outlets quoted retired Iraqi Army Officer Brigadier General Talal Abdel Rahman al-Hamdani as saying on Tuesday.

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941106001405>

## 2. SYRIA

- **Kurdish PYD Not Invited to Syria Talks at Behest of Turkey**

The U.N. sent invitations to several sides of the Syrian conflict but Syrian Kurds said they had not received an invitation likely due to Turkish pressure.

More details:

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Kurdish-PYD-Not-Invited-to-Syria-Talks-at-Behest-of-Turkey-20160126-0036.html?>

- **Invitations Issued for Peace Talks as Deadly Bombing Rocks Syria**

Multiple bombings struck a government-run checkpoint in the central Syrian city of Homs on Tuesday, killing at least 20 people and wounding over a hundred amid intense political jockeying ahead of U.N.-backed peace talks scheduled to begin in Geneva on Friday.

More details:

<http://time.com/4195303/invitations-peace-talks-syria/?>

- **Deputy FM in Moscow to discuss Syria talks**

Iranian Deputy FM Amir-Abdollahian has arrived in Moscow on Wed. to discuss the Syrian crisis with his Russian counterpart ahead of Geneva III peace conference.

More details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113922/Deputy-FM-in-Moscow-to-discuss-Syria-talks?>

- **PYD Kurds won't be invited to Syria talks, Riyadh opponents to take lead**

Jan 27 France's foreign minister said on Wednesday the United Nations' special envoy to Syria had told him that he would not be inviting Syrian PYD Kurds to peace talks in Geneva and that a Riyadh-backed opposition group would lead the negotiations.

More details:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-syria-france-idUSL8N15B0NI?rpc=401>

- **Lebanese man arrested for smuggling funds for Syrian militants**

A Lebanese man was arrested Tuesday near the northeastern border town of Arsal on charges of smuggling funds to the militant groups that are present in the town's outskirts, state-run National News Agency reported.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/lebanese-man-arrested-smuggling-funds-syrian-militants-798236>

- **School collects hundreds of coats for Syrian refugees**

When the Cotswold School asked their local families to donate coats to go to refugee camps in Syria, they were expecting a few bags to arrive.

More details:

[http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/regional/gloucestershire/14232884.School\\_collects\\_hundreds\\_of\\_coats\\_for\\_Syrian\\_refugees/](http://www.kidderminstershuttle.co.uk/news/regional/gloucestershire/14232884.School_collects_hundreds_of_coats_for_Syrian_refugees/)

- **US-backed rebels lose a key town in Syria, thanks to Russian airstrikes**

Western-backed Syrian rebels have suffered one of the most significant defeats yet since Russia's military intervention in Syria turned the tide of the war in favour of President Bashar Assad, further complicating prospects for a negotiated settlement at peace talks scheduled later this week in Geneva.

More details:

<http://www.scmp.com/news/world/article/1905867/us-backed-rebels-lose-key-town-syria-thanks-russian-airstrikes>

- **Syria: Isis Bombs Kill 20 At Security Checkpoint**

ISLAMIC State (Isis) claimed responsibility for bombings yesterday that killed at least 20 and wounded 100 in the Syrian city of Homs.

More details:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-50b7-Syria-Isis-bombs-kill-20-at-security-checkpoint?#.Vqh5LZqLRkg>

- **UN calls for nearly \$300 million to help Syrian refugees in Iraq**

With no let-up to the war in Syria, the United Nations, humanitarian and development agencies in Iraq on Tuesday appealed for 298 million US dollars to back ongoing assistance for nearly 250,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, a UN spokesman told reporters here.

More details:

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2016-01/27/content\\_23268796.htm?](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2016-01/27/content_23268796.htm?)

- **Army Underlines Recapturing of Sheikh Meskeen as New Cornerstone of Syria's War on Terrorism**

The Syrian Armed Forces' General Command underscored that restoring security and stability to Sheikh Meskeen city North of Dara'a province has strengthened the pro-government forces' combat morale in their battle against terrorism and extremism.

More details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=1394110700233>

### 3. IRAN

- **Vatican Calls for Iran's Bigger Role in War on Terrorism**

Pope Francis underlined the need for Iran to play a leading role in campaign against terrorism. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani held a meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Tuesday. The meeting was held behind closed doors on the second day of Iranian President's trip to Europe. During the 40-minutes meeting, Pope Francis thanked President Rouhani for the visit, saying "I hope for peace".

More Details:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13941106001475>

- **Korea president mulls first ever Iran visit**

South Korean President Park Geun-hye is considering visiting Iran as the Asian country seeks to tap into business opportunities there, the Yonhap news agency says. The announcement was made by presidential spokesman Jeong Yeon-guk to reporters in Seoul on Wednesday, without specifying the date of the visit but various South Korean reports put it for either April or May.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/01/27/447522/Iran-South-Korea-president-visit-trade/>

- **Iran pursues win-win policy in trade ties**

President Rouhani in Iran-Italy business forum on Tue. said Tehran will pursue the same win-win policy in its trade ties as in its nuclear negotiations. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani attended Iran-Italy business forum in Rome on Tuesday and said, "the laws and regulations in Iran are reliable for investment. Iran has never violated its commitments to other countries and their private sectors."

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/113900/Iran-pursues-win-win-policy-in-trade-ties>

- **Visa requirements for Iran-Russia trips made easy**

Iranian and Russian citizens will from early February travel more easily between the two countries under new visa rules. Beginning on February 6, Russian and Iranian business people, tourists, scientists and students will receive visas with further ease for mutual trips, Moscow has announced.

More Details:

[http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index\\_view.asp?code=252504](http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=252504)

- **Zarif sees Iranian President's Italy visit as new chapter of close ties**

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif described President Hassan Rouhani's visit to Rome as opening a new chapter of close cooperation with Italy. Zarif made that description on his twitter page. 'Opening a new chapter of close cooperation with Italy- both in economy and trade, and in combating extremism,' Zarif wrote on his page.

More Details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81937602/>

- **Canada will lift Iran sanctions: FM**

Canada will follow the US and EU lead and lift sanctions against Iran, Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion said Tuesday. Responding to questions in the House of Commons, Dion said: "Canada will remove those sanctions." "We will change this policy," he said, noting the sanctions were "not good" for anyone. No timeline was given.

More Details:

<http://www.iran-daily.com/News/135752.html>

- **Iran's economic growth likely, but needs banking reform**

Economic growth in the post-JCPOA era is very likely for Iran, regarded that proper banking and monetary reforms take place, former Central Bank of Iran (CBI) consultant Bijan Bidabad said. The post-JCPOA situation is highly suitable for stock exchange, production and trade as it has lifted many former concerns, he told Trend Jan. 26.

More Details:

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2486053.html>

- **Iran Guardian Council endorses credentials of 166 for Experts Assembly polls**

The council, which vets candidates for general elections, wed out 634 hopefuls who had registered to run for the February 26 elections, Hossein-Ali Amiri said on Tuesday. He added that 37 candidates would be vying for seats in the 88-member Assembly at Tehran Province constituency.

More Details:

<http://iranfrontpage.com/news/politics/local/2016/01/iran-guardian-council-endorses-credentials-of-166-for-experts-assembly-polls/>

- **Iran's President Rouhani claims boosting Middle East economy is the way to beat terrorism**

Generating economic growth in the Middle East is crucial to defeating extremism, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday, putting forward his country as a regional trade hub and pillar of stability. Rouhani is on a four-day trip to Italy and France, looking to rebuild Iranian relations with the West some two weeks after financial sanctions on Tehran were rolled back following the implementation of its nuclear deal with world powers.

More Details:

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/irans.president.rouhani.claims.boosting.middle.east.economy.is.the.way.to.beat.terrorism/77848.htm?>

- **Pakistan to start ferry services to Iran linking Karachi and Chabahar**

Pakistan is set to start ferry services to Iran in order to facilitate movement of pilgrims. Authorities have finalised the specifics of the operations and the services are likely to be launched in March. Pakistan's Minister of Ports and Shipping Kamran Michael said fast ferry services will be available from both Karachi and Gwadar to the Iranian port city of Chabahar. The waterway is to provide a safe route for pilgrims as buses between Pakistan and Iran have come under terrorist attacks in the past, the minister added.

More Details:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/pakistan-start-ferry-services-iran-linking-karachi-chabahar-1540288?>

## 4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Ban Ki Moon, Netanyahu diverge on Palestine**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have offered contrasting perspectives on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories.

More details:

[http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/news/20160127\\_15.html?](http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/news/20160127_15.html?)

- **Israeli forces demolish two homes in East Jerusalem**

Israeli forces on Wednesday tore down two buildings in occupied East Jerusalem, claiming one had been built without permits, while the other stood in the way of a new route connecting Israeli settlements.

More details:

<http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=769985>

- **Israeli Soldiers Kidnap Three Palestinians In Jenin**

Dozens of Israeli military vehicles invaded, on Wednesday at dawn, the towns of Qabatia and Ya'bad, in the northern West Bank district of Jenin, and kidnapped three Palestinians.

More details:

<http://www.imemc.org/article/74739?>

- **Hamas men missing after Gaza tunnel collapse**

Eight members of Hamas were missing on Wednesday after the collapse of a tunnel in the Gaza Strip caused by rain and flooding, a security source said.

More details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/hamas-men-missing-after-gaza-tunnel-collapse-1766647220?>

- **Israel Says ISIS Militants Funded with Turkish Oil Money**

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon has accused Turkey of indirectly funding the Islamic State militant group (ISIS). Speaking to reporters in Athens, Yaalon said Tuesday that Turkey had bought oil from the Islamist extremists, allowing the group to fund its operations, though he implied that the practice has now stopped. “[ISIS] enjoyed Turkish money for oil for a very, very long period of time,” Yaalon added.

More details:

<http://europe.newsweek.com/islamic-state-isis-turkey-israel-oil-funding-420016?rm=eu>

- **Netanyahu accuses UN chief Ban Ki-moon of 'encouraging terror' by saying it is natural for Palestinians to resist Israel's occupation**

Israel’s Prime Minister last night accused the United Nations chief of ‘encouraging terror’ by trying to justify growing Palestinian frustration at Israel's occupation.

More details:

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3418637/Netanyahu-accuses-chief-Ban-Ki-moon-encouraging-terror-saying-natural-Palestinians-resist-Israel-s-occupation.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3418637/Netanyahu-accuses-chief-Ban-Ki-moon-encouraging-terror-saying-natural-Palestinians-resist-Israel-s-occupation.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

- **The start of an intensive period of diplomatic activity**

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is making an official visit to Jerusalem on Wednesday with an entourage of 9 ministers to take part in a High-Level Cooperation Council meeting with Israeli officials. The Prime Ministers of the two countries will then travel to Nicosia to attend a trilateral meeting with President Nicos Anastasiades.

More details:

<http://www.sigmalive.com/en/news/politics/140663/the-start-of-an-intensive-period-of-diplomatic-activity?>

- **-UAE helps 8,100 Palestinian families**

More than 8,100 Palestinian families sponsoring orphans have received aid from the Human Appeal International as part of the winter aid campaign 'Tarahamu' (show compassion), launched last year by the UAE to help people in Iraq and the Levant during snow storm.

More details:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/uae-helps-8-100-palestinian-families-2016-01-27-1.618818>

- **Chinese envoy calls for reactivating peace process between Palestine and Israel**

A Chinese envoy to the United Nations on Tuesday called on the international community to take more robust measures and reactivate the peace process so as to bring Palestine and Israel to the negotiating table.

More details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-01/27/c\\_135048089.htm?](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-01/27/c_135048089.htm?)

- **PA to Allocate 1 Million Liters of Heating Fuel to Gaza**

Palestinian Authority cabinet ministers announced, after their weekly meeting on Tuesday, that the government will send one million liters of fuel to the Gaza Strip, in light of the recent wave of freezing weather currently sweeping the territory.

More details:

<http://www.imemc.org/article/74737?>

## 5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Rifi, Gharbi hold discuss Tunisian money smuggled into Lebanon**

NNA - Justice Minister Ashraf Rifi met on Wednesday before noon at his ministerial office with the advisor of former Tunisian President, Marzouki Sayyed Anwar al Gharbi and discussed the issue of smuggling Tunisian money into Lebanon.

More details:

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/55812/Rifi-Gharbi-hold-discuss-Tunisian-money-smuggled-into-Lebanon?>

- **Iran-Lebanon joint economic meeting due to be held in Tehran**

Lebanese Minister of Economy and Trade Alain Hakim on Tuesday called for development of economic and commercial cooperation with Tehran.

More details:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81936938/?>

- **TI: Lebanon Continues to Suffer from Rampant Corruption**

Lebanon continues to suffer from public sector corruption despite a slight improvement since 2014, graft watchdog Transparency International (TI) said on Wednesday. Lebanon ranked 123rd with a score of 28 out of a possible 100 in 2015 in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/200503-ti-lebanon-continues-to-suffer-from-rampant-corruption?>

- **Israel Fears for 'Spy' Vulture Caught in Lebanon**

Israel's nature authority said Tuesday that a vulture from one of its reserves had been captured on suspicion of espionage in south Lebanon after flying across the border.

More details:

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/200492-israel-fears-for-spy-vulture-caught-in-lebanon?>

- **Jordanian Foreign Minister meets with British Parliamentary Delegation**

Nasser Judeh, Jordanian Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, has met with a British parliamentary delegation, currently visiting Jordan.

More details:

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/international/1395290790870.html?>

- **Jordan says resolving Palestinian issue key to regional stability**

Jordan's senior parliamentary official said on Tuesday that finding a just solution to the Palestinian issue and ending the Israeli occupation are key to restoring stability in the Middle East, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

More details:

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-01/27/c\\_135047994.htm?](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-01/27/c_135047994.htm?)

- **ILO chief to visit Jordan ahead of refugee donor meeting**

The International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Director General Guy Ryder is due to visit Jordan on Thursday to examine first-hand the effects of the Syria refugee crisis on Jordan's labour market.

More details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/ilo-chief-visit-jordan-ahead-refugee-donor-meeting>

- **Public entities to delay start of work hours**

Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour Tuesday ordered that work hours in all ministries and public departments will start at 10 am, instead of 8 am, on Wednesday and Thursday due to the prevailing harsh weather conditions.

More details:

[http://petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site\\_id=1&NewsID=234859&CatID=13](http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=234859&CatID=13)

- **Interior minister checks on measures taken by CDD to deal with weather conditions**

Interior Minister Salamah Hammad on Tuesday visited the Civil Defense Department (CDD) to check on measures taken by the department to deal with emergency cases during the prevailing weather conditions.

More details:

[http://petra.gov.jo/Public\\_News/Nws\\_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site\\_id=1&NewsID=234743&CatID=13](http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=234743&CatID=13)

- **Syria regime forces take control of key town near Jordan**

Multiple bombings targeted a government-run security checkpoint in the central Syrian city of Homs on Tuesday, killing at least 20 people, Syria's state-run news agency reported.

More details:

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/region/syria-regime-forces-take-control-key-town-near-jordan-border?>

## 6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **U.N. panel calls for global inquiry on Yemen**

The United Nations Security Council should consider creating an international commission of inquiry to investigate alleged human rights abuses by all sides in Yemen's conflict, a panel of U.N. experts says. The Associated Press on Tuesday obtained a copy of the panel's annual report, which has not been released publicly. The panel monitors U.N. sanctions.

More Details:

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2016/01/27/U-N-panel-calls-for-global-inquiry-in-Yemen.html>

- **Kuwaiti court overturns conviction of ruling family member: Media**

An appeals court has overturned a suspended prison sentence against Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah, a senior member of the ruling family and a power broker in international sport, local media reported on Tuesday. A court last month convicted Sheikh Ahmad of disrespect to the public prosecutor and attributing a remark to the country's ruler without a special permission from the emir's court. It gave him a six-month suspended prison sentence and a fine of 1,000 dinars (\$3,300).

More Details:

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/news/middle-east/367775/kuwaiti-court-overturns-conviction-of-ruling-family-member-media>

- **Saudi Arabia thwarts Houthi rebels' attempt to cross border**

A coalition of Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia thwarted on Monday an attempt by dozens of Houthi rebels and militias loyal to former Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh to cross the Saudi-Yemeni border area in vehicles. The coalition carried out military operations on Monday morning against sites belonging to the Yemeni rebels inside Yemen to prevent more attempts to infiltrate the border area, the Al-Arabiya news agency reported.

More Details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/23556-saudi-arabia-thwarts-houthi-rebels-attempt-to-cross-border>

- **Yemeni Army, Popular Forces Conduct Special Operations in Jizan, Asir**

The Yemeni army and popular forces continued their special operations in the city of Al-Khuba in Jizan province in Southern Saudi Arabia and seized back strategic military positions. The Yemeni forces took full control of Al-Shabaka military center after cutting their supply lines in the Northern part of Al-Khuba region.

More Details:

<http://en.alalam.ir/news/1783228>

- **Egyptian troops in Saudi Arabia for joint military exercise**

Several Egyptian military units headed to Saudi Arabia on Monday to take part in "Thunder of the North," a joint military exercise involving "a number of Arab and Muslim states," according to Egypt's

armed forces. The military units participating in the exercise include ground and air forces and special forces, in addition to air defence equipment. According to an Egyptian Armed Forces statement, the military training exercise aims to raise the technical and combat standards of the units taking part in it.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/egyptian-troops-saudi-arabia-joint-military-exercise-797972>

- **Al-Falih: Saudi Arabia Has the Strength to Survive the Decline in Oil Prices for Years**

The Saudi Minister of Health and the Chairman of the Board at Saudi Aramco Khalid Al-Falih stressed that Saudi Arabia has the strength to survive the current decline in oil prices “for a very long period of time” due to the fact that Saudi Arabia is one of the lowest cost producers. Not only that, but it intends to reduce its costs even more so that it has even longer staying power. Al-Falih told reporters in Riyadh yesterday on the side lines of the Global Competitiveness Forum that “Saudi Arabia is well-documented to be the clear lowest- cost producer – we have scale, capabilities and technology to help us maintain our low cost as we go forward”.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/2016/01/article55346939/al-falih-saudi-arabia-has-the-strength-to-sustain-the-decline-in-oil-prices-for-years>

- **GCC humanitarian, relief organisations meet in Riyadh**

Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabiah, Advisor at the Royal Court and General Supervisor of King Salman Relief Centre for Humanitarian Works, inaugurated on Tuesday the GCC Relief and Humanitarian Organizations' Meeting with presence of Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Civil Service and Insurance, Abdulaziz Jabbari, who is also Supervisor General of the Supreme Relief Committee.

More Details:

<http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/708089>

- **Impressive 131% growth rate in Dubai-Russia non-oil trade during 2010-2014**

DP World and the Russian Direct Investment Fund, RDIF, have announced the launch of a new joint venture company targeting ports, transportation and logistics infrastructure in Russia. The announcement followed a series of meetings and discussions between DP World Chairman and top Russian officials.

More Details:

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/economics/1395290789730.html>

- **Self-proclaimed Daesh 'emir' put on trial in UAE**

An Emirati man accused of seeking to carry out attacks on targets including Abu Dhabi's Formula 1 circuit claimed to be the local leader of Daesh, newspapers reported on Tuesday, citing a Federal Supreme court hearing. A prosecution witness told the court that an Emirati and his wife had taken an oath of allegiance to Daesh through social media, Gulf News reported.

More Details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/middle-east/news/870971>

- **Oman's Majlis Al Shura members agree on disclosure of financial assets**

Majlis Al Shura members have decided to voluntarily disclose their financial assets details to the government as part of transparency measures, a Shura member said. "On Monday, we decided to disclose the details of our financial assets to government auditors to bring in more transparency. This will help the government in the future to find if there are any financial irregularities," Mohammed Al Busaidi, a Shura member from Bausher, told the Times of Oman.

More Details:

<http://timesofoman.com/article/76279/Oman/Government/Oman's-Majlis-Al-Shura-members-agree-to-disclose-financial-assets-to-government>

## 7. EGYPT

- **Group 'conspired against Egypt govt'**

Leading figures from the Muslim Brotherhood group had schemed against state affairs during former Islamist President Mohamed Morsi's one-year rule.

More details:

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/News/Group--conspired-against-Egypt-govt-/-/1840340/3050686/-/14of1xz/-/index.html?>

- **Relationship between India & Egypt has got a new momentum: Sanjay Bhattacharyya**

The bilateral relationship between India and Egypt has got a new momentum and both countries will see cooperation in various fields including political, economic and security cooperation, the Indian envoy here has said.

More details:

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/relationship-between-india-egypt-has-got-a-new-momentum-116012700070\\_1.html?](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/relationship-between-india-egypt-has-got-a-new-momentum-116012700070_1.html?)

- **Saudis keep buying properties in Egypt**

Many Saudis believe that Egypt is the best country to purchase a second home, with many buying houses as investment or vacation properties. Saudi Gazette interviewed some Saudis who own houses in Egypt.

More details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/world/mena/saudis-keep-buying-properties-in-egypt/?>

- **Egypt army chief discusses military cooperation with Pakistan general**

Egyptian Minister of Defence Sedki Sobhi met on Tuesday in Cairo with General Rashad Mahmood, the chairman of the Pakistani Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, where they discussed military cooperation between Egypt and Pakistan.

More details:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/186006/Egypt/Politics-/Egypt-army-chief-discusses-military-cooperation-wi.aspx?>

- **Cairo-Moscow Parliamentary Cooperation to Resolve Number of Issues**

Former foreign minister of Egypt and a lawmaker, Mohamed Orabi, said that the official visit of Russian parliament delegation to Cairo will be the beginning of close cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries, which eventually will help to eliminate many problems.

More details:

<http://sputniknews.com/world/20160126/1033743714/egypt-russia-cooperation.html#ixzz3yQwDB7YT>

- **Paris and Egypt terror attacks scared British travellers off flying, says EasyJet**

British travellers have cut back on holidays and trips abroad in the wake of the Paris and Egypt terrorist attacks, EasyJet revealed today.

More details:

<http://www.express.co.uk/finance/city/638195/EasyJet-Paris-and-Egypt-terror-attacks-scared-British-travellers-off-flying>

- **With democracy a distant memory, Western support for Sisi is backing for a loser**

Five years ago next month ordinary Egyptians looked on in amazement as British Prime Minister David Cameron swept through Tahrir Square with a huge security detail in tow to congratulate the people on their revolution. Just 10 days earlier they had overthrown one-time friend of the West - and close friend of Tony Blair - the brutal dictator Hosni Mubarak.

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/articles/middle-east/23541-with-democracy-a-distant-memory-western-support-for-sisi-is-backing-for-a-loser?>

- **Tunisia's Marzouki says world needs Egypt free of corruption and tyranny**

In a statement posted on Monday on his Facebook page addressing the Egyptian President Abdel Fatah Al-Sisi's call for Tunisians to preserve their country, Marzouki said: "Sisi tells us Tunisians to preserve our country! This is the same man who misled his country!"

More details:

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/africa/23547-tunisia-marzouki-says-world-needs-egypt-free-of-corruption-and-tyranny?>

- **Egyptian MP demands better female representation in delegations**

A female member of the House of Representatives has demanded that the house speaker ensure women are represented in parliamentary delegations.

More details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/egyptian-mp-demands-better-female-representation-delegations-797994>

- **Egypt: Security Operations Inflamm Rights Crisis**

Human rights remain in crisis in President Abdelfattah al-Sisi's Egypt, more than two years after the army removed the former president, Human Rights Watch said today in its World Report 2016.

More details:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/01/27/egypt-security-operations-inflamm-rights-crisis?>

## 8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Nigeria's former president Obasanjo on visit to Algeria**

Former president of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo begun on Tuesday a visit to Algeria. Obasanjo has been received at Houari Boumediene international airport by Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal and Minister of Maghreb Affairs, African Union and Arab League Abdelkader Messahel.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/10491-nigeria-s-former-president-obasanjo-on-visit-to-algeria?>

- **Minister of Mujahideen starts three-day working visit to France**

Minister of Mujahideen (War Veterans), Tayeb Zitouni started, Tuesday afternoon, a three-day working visit to France which will be devoted to three main issues: the archives, the Algerians who disappeared during the National Liberation War and the compensation of victims of nuclear testing in the Algerian Sahara.

More details:

<http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/10506-minister-of-mujahideen-starts-three-day-working-visit-to-france?>

- **The Power” is Disbanded in Algeria**

The Algerian security service, the DRS, has been one of the most vicious in the world—and as of this weekend, it is no more. The North African country’s aging, infirm strongman President Abdelaziz Bouteflika—or someone speaking from behind the throne—appears to have disbanded the body, known locally as “le pouvoir” (the power), as part of an opaque struggle over his succession.

More details:

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/01/26/the-power-is-disbanded-in-algeria/?>

- **EU considers sanctions for Libya peace 'spoilers': sources**

The EU is considering sanctions against several Libyan figures for undermining efforts to form a national unity government, a key first step towards bringing peace to the war-torn country, European sources said Tuesday.

More details:

<http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/libya-unrest.160n?>

- **Libyan parliament overwhelmingly rejects U.N.-supported unity government**

The internationally-recognized parliament in Tobruk, Libya, voted Tuesday to reject a proposed national unity government developed last week during talks brokered by the United Nations.

More details:

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/World-News/2016/01/26/Libyan-parliament-overwhelmingly-rejects-UN-supported-unity-government/3801453844115/?spt=sec&or=tn](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2016/01/26/Libyan-parliament-overwhelmingly-rejects-UN-supported-unity-government/3801453844115/?spt=sec&or=tn)

- **New Libya unity government likely in 10 days**

A revamped Libyan unity government will be proposed within 10 days, an official said on Tuesday, after the internationally recognised parliament rejected an initial line-up in a blow to peace efforts.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/9229de32-c175-46d2-8908-eafdc8cf0116.aspx?>

- **In Tunisia, the sole Arab Spring success, economic woes reignite unrest**

Five years after a Tunisian street vendor set himself afire and touched off a revolution, the country is still struggling with joblessness and unmet economic expectations.

More details:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2016/0126/In-Tunisia-the-sole-Arab-Spring-success-economic-woes-reignite-unrest?>

- **Tunisia-Kuwait: bilateral military co-operation agreement signed**

Tunisia and Kuwait concluded, on Tuesday, a bilateral military co-operation agreement at the end of a talk between President Beji Caid Essebsi and Sheikh Sabbah Al Ahmed Al Sabbah, Emir of Kuwait.

More details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/32919-tunisia-kuwait-bilateral-military-co-operation-agreement-signed?>

- **EU donates Tunisia 158 medical transport vehicles**

The European Union, on Tuesday, offered Tunisia a medical transport fleet composed of 158 vehicles. It is part of an agreement signed in 2012 by Tunisia and the European Union which pledged to provide 12-million-euro assistance to Tunisia under the Support Programme for the Development of Disadvantaged Areas in Tunisia (PAZD II), he added.

More details:

<http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/society/32913-eu-donates-tunisia-158-medical-transport-vehicles?>

- **At Morocco Conference, Non-Muslims Who Are Religious Minorities Gather To Discuss Their Rights**

Prominent political and religious leaders are in Morocco for a three-day conference ending Wednesday focusing on the rights of religious minorities in Muslim-majority communities, the Middle East Monitor reported. The conference, which kicked off Monday in Marrakesh, was jointly organized by the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and the forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies. Participants included ministers, muftis, religious scholars and academics from numerous backgrounds and schools of thought.

More details:

<http://www.ibtimes.com/morocco-conference-non-muslims-who-are-religious-minorities-gather-discuss-their-2281328>

## 9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **Leader of Tajik terrorist movement Jamaat Ansarullah killed in Afghanistan**

Tajikistan says Mullah Amriddin, the leader of banned Tajik movement of Jamaat Ansarullah has been killed in Afghanistan,

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/leader-of-tajik-terrorist-movement-jamaat-ansarullah-killed-in-afghansitan-4518>

- **Afghanistan among three corrupt countries of 2015**

Afghanistan has been listed third after Somalia and North Korea in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 of Transparency International.

More details:

<http://www.khaama.com/afghanistan-third-corrupt-country-in-2015-4518>

- **UN Launches Appeal for \$393M Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan**

The United Nations has launched an appeal for \$393 million in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan to reach millions of vulnerable people this year.

More details:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS\\_AFGHANISTAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-01-27-02-36-15](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AS_AFGHANISTAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2016-01-27-02-36-15)

- **Pakistan Taliban leader 'Mullah Fazlullah' reportedly killed in Afghanistan**

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Chief Mullah Fazlullah has reportedly been killed in a drone strike in Afghanistan

More details:

<http://en.abna24.com/service/central-asia-subcontinent/archive/2016/01/27/732182/story.html?>

- **Afghanistan Asks China for Full SCO Membership**

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday in a statement said that Afghanistan has asked China for full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

More details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/23484-afghanistan-asks-china-for-full-sco-membership?>

- **Charsadda Attack: Pakistan Asks Afghanistan to Act against Perpetrators**

After thorough investigations into the terrorist attack on the Bacha Khan University in Charsadda, Pakistan has clearly told Afghanistan it was time that they took 'relevant details' seriously that proved that handlers of the attack were operating from the Afghan territory

More details:

<http://www.geo.tv/latest/100631-Charsadda-attack-Pakistan-conveys-concerns-to-Afghanistan>

- **Pakistan Leaves China, India Behind In Reducing Corruption**

Corruption in Pakistan is on the decline, as Transparency International Berlin today (Wednesday) releases its annual global report 2015 showing Pakistan further improving its ranking from the 50th most corrupt country in 2014 to 53rd in 2015.

More details:

<http://www.geo.tv/latest/100636-Pakistan-leaves-China-India-behind-in-reducing-corruption>

- **KU admissions policy comes under fire in Sindh Assembly**

The admissions policy of the University of Karachi under which the varsity gives priority to the students of the metropolis came under criticism at the Sindh Assembly on Tuesday when Pakistan Peoples Party lawmakers demanded an end to what they called a 'quota system' and equal opportunities for students of all Sindh districts.

More details:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1235590/ku-admissions-policy-comes-under-fire-in-sindh-assembly>

- **Pakistan has unique role in Afghan peace talks: China**

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday said Pakistan had a unique role in the Afghan peace talks and urged Pakistan to take part in the peace process with China which will play the role of a mediator in the talks.

More details:

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/94134-Pakistan-has-unique-role-in-Afghan-peace-talks-China>

- **Pakistan Court Refuses Voice Samples Of Suspects In 26/11 Case**

In a fresh setback to the Mumbai attack trial, a Pakistani court has dismissed the government's petition seeking voices samples of 26/11 mastermind Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi and six other suspects in the case.

More details:

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/pakistan-court-refuses-voice-samples-of-suspects-in-26-11-case-1270564>

## 10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **Davutoglu says Turkey's problem is with PYD, not Syria's Kurds**

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has stated that Syrian Kurds need to be a part of the peace process in order to develop a comprehensive plan to end the civil war in Syria, however, Turkey firmly stands against the participation of PYD in the Geneva talks, on the opposition ranks. "Without Syrian Kurds, the table cannot be complete. What we are against is YPG," Davutoglu told CNN's Christiane Amanpour on Monday, referring to the armed wing of PYD which Turkey considers the PKK's Syrian extension.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/davutoglu-says-turkeys-problem-is-with-pyd-not-syrias-kurds-35476>

- **Turkey disagrees with Russia over Kurds' inclusion in Syria talks**

Turkey on Tuesday said it strongly opposes the Syrian Kurdish group Democratic Union Party (PYD) taking part in UN-backed talks planned for later this week seeking a political solution to the Syrian crisis. "We are categorically against the YPG and PYD sitting at the table," Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told ruling party's lawmakers in parliament.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=74882>

- **Turkey to boycott Syria peace talks if PYD is invited**

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has announced that Turkey will boycott Syria peace talks if PKK's Syrian extension PYD is invited to the latest Geneva meeting, organised by the United Nations. The United Nations has invited Syria's government and opposition to peace talks, set to start in Geneva on Friday, a UN statement said on Tuesday, without giving any details of who had been invited, or how many groups might participate.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/mea/turkey-to-boycott-syria-peace-talks-if-pyd-is-invited-35511>

*\*This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler**. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.*

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