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WEATHER / ANKARA  
Friday, Cloudy 21°C



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## Turkey to 'not allow' looting in Syria's Afrin region

By Merve Aydogan and Satuk B. Kutlugun

ANKARA - Turkey is "seriously" looking into looting claims in Syria's Afrin town center. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday. The Turkish military and Free Syrian Army recently cleared the town center of YPG/PKK-Daesh terrorists during Operation Olive Branch that was launched on Jan. 20. "We -- the Turkish nation, state and government -- are against everything inhumane," Cavusoglu told Anadolu Agency's Editors' Desk in capital Ankara.

"Our soldiers and the Free Syrian Army are not YPG/PKK terrorists." The foreign minister said terrorist groups like the YPG/PKK-Daesh carried out looting in Afrin during their attempts at ethnic cleansing. He said all complaints about looting would be taken seriously. "When there are complaints on such an issue, we have to take it seriously." He said the sweep and clearing military activities as part of Operation Olive Branch in Syria's remain ongoing in Afrin. He added that Turkish aid agencies... [MORE DETAILS](#)



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## Seizing ammo, police avert terrorist attacks

ADANA - Turkish security forces on Thursday seized a large cache of arms and ammunition meant for use in attacking police stations, thus averting such attacks, according to a security source. Last week in the southern Adana province, police arrested 50 suspects during an operation against the YPG/PKK terrorist group, said a security source, who

asked not to be named due to restrictions on talking to the media. The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the EU. During the arrests, police learned that a large amount of weapons, ammunition, and explosives had been brought to the region from Syria, with the intention of using them to carry out attacks on police stations during... [MORE DETAILS](#)

## 2017 growth forecast at 7.3%

Turkey's economic growth last year is projected to total 7.3 percent, a panel of economists said in a survey on Thursday

ISTANBUL - A group of 17 experts questioned by Anadolu Agency projected the figure ahead of fourth quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data, set to be released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) on March 29. Among the economists' expectations, the highest growth forecast for last year's

economic growth was 7.9 percent, while the lowest was 6.6 percent. According to the economists, Turkey's growth in the fourth quarter of 2017 is expected to total 7.1 percent. The highest economic growth percentage predicted among the economists for the fourth quarter was 9.5 percent, while the lowest

was 4.5 percent. Economists also forecasted that Turkey would see annual growth of 4.6 percent at the end of 2018, with the highest forecast at 5.5 percent and the lowest at 4 percent. Turkey's economy expanded 5.3 percent in the first quarter and 5.4... [MORE DETAILS](#)

## Afrin victims' families condemn YPG/PKK smear

Relatives who lost young family members in Afrin criticize YPG/PKK's anti-Turkey smear campaign centered on deadly blast



Anadolu Agency iPhoto

By Esref Musa

AFRIN/IDLIB - People who lost their young family members to a roadside

bomb planted by YPG/PKK terrorists in Afrin, Syria, near Turkey's southern border, explained both the horror of the attack and the terror group then

trying to blame the attack on Turkey. YPG/PKK terrorists in the Afrin region had booby-trapped the village road to block civilians from leaving... [MORE DETAILS](#)



## Turkish soldiers provide food, check-ups in Afrin

ANKARA - Turkish troops have given health check-ups and distributed food to civilians in Syria's Afrin, recently liberated as part of Operation Olive Branch after being a major hideout for YPG/PKK terrorists since 2012. With the town center liberated, Turkish military provided Afrin residents with medication and food, and also gave them free health check-ups. Residents of Afrin welcomed

Turkish soldiers with cheers while Turkish soldiers also offered them chocolate and Turkish delight. After liberating the town center on Sunday, the Turkish army started taking measures to oversee security and order in Afrin. Turkey launched Operation Olive Branch on Jan. 20 to clear terrorist groups from Afrin in the northwest of the war-torn country, amid growing threats from the region. [MORE DETAILS](#)