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# Assad regime, allies burn 37 to death in E. Ghouta



*White Helmets accuse Assad regime, its allies of using inflammable 'napalm' bombs during airstrikes on civilians*

EASTERN GHOUTA/ANKARA - The Assad regime and its allies on Friday targeted a shelter in the Arbin town of Syria's besieged Eastern Ghouta, killing dozens of civilians, according to White Helmets.

In statements made on its social media accounts, the civil defense group said fighter jets had been used to hit the shelter inhabited by civilians with inflammable "napalm" bombs. Initial reports suggest at least 37

civilians, mostly women and children, were burnt to death; the death toll is expected to increase further. Civilians remain trapped in the region and have been unable to get out of their shelters due to intense... [MORE DETAILS](#)



# Turkish military finds YPG/PKK terror HQ in Afrin

AFRIN - Turkey's military on Friday found headquarters buildings of the terrorist group YPG/PKK during security sweeps in areas of Afrin, Syria liberated from terrorists. Turkey launched Operation Olive Branch on Jan. 20 to clear terrorist groups from Afrin, northwestern Syria

amid growing threats from the region. On March 18, Turkish-backed troops liberated the town center of Afrin, which had been a major hideout for the YPG/PKK since 2012. Afterwards, the Turkish military began security sweeps for mines, improvised explosive devices... [MORE DETAILS](#)

# Turkey opens airspace to northern Iraq's Erbil

ANKARA - Prime Minister Binali Yildirim on Friday announced the lifting of a flight ban to northern Iraq's Erbil city. Speaking to media in capital Ankara, Yildirim said: "We had closed down our airspace following northern Iraq's referendum. We are opening our airspace as of today." An international flight ban had been imposed late last year in response to an illegitimate poll on regional

independence carried out by the Erbil-based Kurdish Regional Government (KRG). Before the poll, most regional actors -- including Turkey -- had voiced opposition to the referendum, with many warning that it would further destabilize the already volatile region. Yildirim also said commercial flights would be available from either Turkey or Europe to Erbil. [MORE DETAILS](#)



# Trump security aide links YPG, PKK terrorists

WASHINGTON - Shortly before being named the new U.S. national security advisor, John Bolton linked the terrorist YPG/PKK in Syria to the PKK, a group that has taken over 40,000 lives in Turkey in a 30-year terror campaign.

Appearing on Fox News on March 14, Bolton was asked about the U.S. supporting groups in Syria such as the terrorist YPG/PKK. "This is, I think, part of the inadequate strategy from [Barack] Obama that unfortunately the Trump administration continued," said Bolton... [MORE DETAILS](#)

# France: 2 killed in hostage standoff

PARIS - Police SWAT teams on Friday surrounded a supermarket in the town of Trebes, southern France, where at least one gunman is holding several people hostage. The entire area is in lockdown, in what Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, in Paris, described as a "serious situation." Calling the situation a "terrible tragedy," Trebes Mayor Eric Menassi told broadcaster BFMTV that at least two people had been killed inside the market. France's interior minister

tweeted that he was heading to the scene. The gunman had earlier opened fire at four police officers jogging in the nearby town of Carcassonne, injuring at least one, according to French broadcaster BFMTV. He fled by car and entered the Super U supermarket in the Aude department around 11 am local time (10:46 GMT). The Interior Ministry tweeted: "Police intervention underway at Trebes in Aude. The priority is intervention of the police and rescue forces." [MORE DETAILS](#)

# Turkey, US talking over Patriot missiles

ANKARA - Turkey said Friday that it is continuing talks with the U.S. over buying Patriot missile systems. "I can say that our discussions with the U.S. regarding Patriot missile system are continuing," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy told a news conference in the capital Ankara, while discussing NATO-integrated defense systems. Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Umit Yalcin is

set to visit Washington soon, "possibly next week", as part of working groups established between Turkey and the U.S., added Aksoy. Turkey and the U.S. have been trying to iron out a number of issues, principally concerning the terrorist YPG/PKK in Syria, a group the U.S. has worked with, calling it a "reliable ally" in the fight against Daesh. Towards that end, Turkey and the U.S. have established working groups to discuss a number of issues including the stabilization of Manbij, Syria and... [MORE DETAILS](#)