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Afrin center secured from terrorists with control points

Newly-established control points are aimed at protecting local civilians and thwarting terrorists

Turkey in talks with US, Russia over Syria

By Meryem Goktas

ISTANBUL - Turkey is in talks with the U.S. and Russia to prevent further escalation of tensions in Syria, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday.

"While discussing all this, the issue we insisted on was that the increasing tensions in the region would not be right and the crisis in the region should end with the establishment of peace," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul.

The Turkish president said that he has shared footages of Syria's Douma with his Russian counterpart Vladimir

Erdogan said he also spoke with U.S. president Donald Trump over the issue of chemical attacks in Douma, adding that Turkey has a strong position against the use of it.

The Assad regime has been blamed for a chemical attack Saturday night in the city of Douma in Eastern Ghouta, killing 78 civilians and injuring hundreds of others, according to the White Helmets civil defense agency. Erdogan also stressed the importance of... MORE DETAILS



By Burak Karacaoglu, Eshref Musa and Selen Temizer

AFRIN - Turkish troops and the Free Syrian Army (FSA), which liberated Syria's Afrin from terrorists as part of Operation Olive Branch, have established control points with a view to

protecting local civilians and preventing the return of terrorists to the region. Some media reports have claimed that the Turkish military and the FSA have prevented civilians from returning to Afrin and that they were mistreating civilians and taking bribes from

returning refugees.

The U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said in a report released on Apr. 9 that civilians coming back to Afrin were being forced to pay large bribes.

Reports also claimed that... MORE DETAILS

'Shoot to kill a product of occupation' in Palestine



Group of former Israeli soldiers say they are filled with 'shame and sorrow' over latest killings in Gaza

By Ahmet Gurhan Kartal

LONDON - The instruction to shoot to kill unarmed demonstrators is a product of Israel's occupation and military rule over millions of Palestinians, a group

of former Israeli army soldiers said in a letter they sent to a top British daily. The apologetic letter published by The Guardian was signed by four former Israeli combatants expressing their distress over the most recent killings of

demonstrators in Gaza.

"We, a group of former combatants who were members of sniper teams, seek to express our feelings of distress regarding the recent incidents in the Gaza Strip," the letter said. MORE DETAILS

Jewish settlers torch West Bank mosque

By Qais Abu Samra

NABLUS - Jewish settlers set fire to the entrance of a mosque near the West Bank city of Nablus early Friday and spray-painted anti-Arab and anti-Muslim slogans, according to a Palestinian

activist. "A group of settlers attacked the town of Agraba [south of Nablus] and set fire to the entrance of the Al-Sheikh Saada Mosque," activist Yousef Diriya told Anadolu Agency.

"They spray-painted slogans

in Hebrew hostile to Arabs and Muslims -- including 'Death to the Arabs' -- on the walls of the mosque," he said.

"Only the vigilance of local residents prevented the mosque from being completely burnt to the ground," Diriya added. Palestinian political figures have condemned the attack. President Mahmoud Abbas reiterated calls for "international protection" for the Palestinians and their holy sites, urging relevant international... MORE DETAILS