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President of Turkey and the leader of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Erdogan blasts French demands to change Quran

If 300 figures seeking Quran changes read their own holy books, they would also want them banned, says Turkish president

By Sibel Ugurlu

ANKARA - We will not stoop to the level of French critics of Islam by attacking their sacred values, said Turkey's president on Tuesday, blasting a French proposal for the removal of some Quranic verses. Addressing his ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party's parliamentary group meeting on Tuesday, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said

the 300 French authors and politicians who signed onto the manifesto making the proposal "obviously know nothing about the Quran." "I wonder if they ever read their own holy book the Bible, or the [Jewish] Torah, or the [Muslim] Zabur. If they read them, I guess they would want them to be banned. But they don't have such problems," Erdogan said. Turkey has several times warned Western countries about anti-religious

approaches, xenophobia and fascism, Erdogan said. "Even if you attack our holy book, we will not do the same... We will not stoop to your level and attack your sacred values," he added. On April 21, 300 prominent French figures, including former President Nicolas Sarkozy and former Prime Minister Manuel Valls, signed an open manifesto demanding that some parts of the Quran, which they claimed... [MORE DETAILS](#)



Anadolu Agency Photo

Germany sees 1,075 Islamophobic crimes in 2017

By Ayhan Simsek

BERLIN - German police recorded 1,075 Islamophobic crimes in 2017, according to new government figures announced on Tuesday. Far-right extremists or groups carried out some 994 attacks against Muslims and mosques, which made up 92.5 percent of

all Islamophobic crimes, the report by the Interior Ministry said. Last January, police began registering Islamophobic crimes under a special category, after calls by the country's Muslim community to take more serious measures against the growing number of anti-Muslim hate crimes. Germany, a country of 81.8 million... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Police arrest 10 Daesh suspects in northern Turkey

SAMSUN - Ten suspected terrorist Daesh members were arrested in northern Turkey on Tuesday, according to a security source. Police launched simultaneous raids on several addresses in Samsun province, said the source, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on talking to the media. The suspects, including nine Iraqi nationals, were arrested during the raids. Security forces have been involved in a long... [MORE DETAILS](#)



PKK caused evacuation of border villages

350 villages near Iraq's borders were evacuated due to PKK presence in region, KRG spokesman says

ERBIL - Safeen Dizayee, a spokesman for the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), said Monday that more than 350 villages

near Iraq's borders were evacuated due to the terrorist PKK organizations' training camps in the region. Speaking to reporters in Erbil, the KRG's administrative capital, he said: "So far, more than 350 villages were evacuated due to the PKK's presence in the region. We have always wanted the PKK to withdraw from the region." Pointing out that there were hotbeds of terrorism near the Turkey-Iraq border, Dizayee added that the Turkish... [MORE DETAILS](#)

Voters in Iraq's Kurd region have little faith in polls

ERBIL - In the run-up to May 12 parliamentary polls, would-be voters in northern Iraq's Kurdish region appear apathetic -- due largely to an ongoing economic crisis and a lack of faith in their political leaders. In Iraq's last general election in 2014, political parties based in the Kurdish region clinched a total of 62 seats in the country's

national assembly. Forty-four candidates from Kurdish parties were elected in the provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk, while another 18 were elected in territories disputed between Baghdad and the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), including Kirkuk, Mosul and Diyala. Previously, Kurdish parties had... [MORE DETAILS](#)