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# SYLLOGE ON WEST ASIA

**FOCUS, NUCLEAR, MISSILES & OTHER  
SECURITY ISSUES IN WEST ASIA**

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## IRAN

### Iran, China, Russia, and Europe set to discuss possible U.S. return to JCPOA

Tehran Times, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will take place on Friday to discuss a possible U.S. return to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the European Union said in a statement on Thursday. "The Joint Commission will be chaired on behalf of EU High Representative Josep Borrell by the Deputy Secretary-General and Political Director of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora. It will be attended by representatives of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and Iran," the statement said. "Participants will discuss the prospect of a possible return of the United States to the JCPOA and how to ensure the full and effective implementation of the agreement by all sides."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459330/Iran-China-Russia-and-Europe-set-to-discuss-possible-U-S>

### Iran's inviolable JCPOA policy in words of Ayatollah Khamenei

Tehran Times, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has outlined Iran's policy on the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, paving the way for Iranian diplomats to pursue the country's interests in a more effective way. The Leader laid out Iran's policy on the nuclear deal -officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)- in a recent speech delivered on the occasion of the Persian New Year. He outlined a process in which the U.S. should lift all sanctions first in order for Iran to resume fully implementing the JCPOA. "This

policy is that the Americans should lift all sanctions. After that, we will verify. If the sanctions have been lifted, we will return to our Barjam [JCPOA] commitments. We will return without any problem. This is a definite policy. We do not consider American promises to be valid. If they say that they will lift them on paper, this is of no use. What is necessary is action! They should lift the sanctions in practice. Subsequently, we will verify their statements to make sure that the sanctions have been lifted. Then, we will resume our commitments," the Leader said on March 21.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459366/Iran-s-inviolable-JCPOA-policy-in-words-of-Ayatollah-Khamenei>

### Iran-China cooperation raises concern in the West

Tehran Times, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021

History took a new turn on March 27 when Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi signed a document on a long-term cooperation plan that would boost Tehran-Beijing relations in various fields to a new, strategic level. The plan, officially known as the "Comprehensive Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China," manifested a strategic decision by Iran. "The document focuses on the capacities and perspectives for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various areas including economic and cultural fields, among others. We believe this document will further contribute to the continued development and comprehensive partnership of Iran and China, and will bring about prosperity for the two nations," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a

statement following the signing of the document.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459367/Iran-China-cooperation-raises-concern-in-the-West>

### **Biden's Iran envoy: U.S. has to lift sanctions inconsistent with nuclear deal**

Tehran Times, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021

Washington has to lift those sanctions that are inconsistent with the 2015 nuclear deal if Iran is prepared to reverse its retaliatory measures in reducing its commitments to the deal, Robert Malley, President Biden's special envoy for Iran, has said. Malley's remarks came after the Joint Commission of the JCPOA, which is led by the European Union foreign policy chief, held a virtual meeting on Friday in which the participants agreed to meet on Tuesday in Vienna with the participation of the U.S. but there will be no direct talks between Iran and the U.S. "It's been many years since the United States has had that kind of engagement with Iran. It's going to be indirect. But we have seen the product of several years in which the Trump administration had tried to impose maximum pressure on Iran, withdrawing from the deal, trying to get Iran to surrender," Malley said in an interview with PBS' Judy Woodruff.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459398/Biden-s-Iran-envoy-U-S-has-to-lift-sanctions-inconsistent-with>

### **Iran using new advanced centrifuges at Natanz**

Tehran Times, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2021

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has started feeding uranium into cluster of 174 IR-2m centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear facility, the IAEA confirmed in a report on Thursday. "On 31 March 2021,

the Agency verified at FEP [Fuel Enrichment Plant] that: Iran had begun feeding natural UF6 into a fourth cascade of 174 IR-2m centrifuges," the report, dated Wednesday, said. UF6 stands for uranium hexafluoride - the chemical compound used in the process of uranium enrichment.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459417/Iran-using-new-advanced-centrifuges-at-Natanz>

### **Sanctions should be lifted 'all at once and completely': Iranian parliament**

Tehran Times, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Iranian parliament representatives issued a statement on Sunday saying that a return to the 2015 nuclear deal – JCPOA – by the United States will be dependent on a lifting of sanctions "all at once and completely" that can be verified by experts. Calling the sanctions oppressive, they said any negotiations for "synchronized steps" with the current JCPOA parties will actually lead to a procrastination in fully lifting sanctions and that will be "unacceptable" and will run counter to the "general policies of the establishment and the Majlis law."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459446/Sanctions-should-be-lifted-all-at-once-and-completely-Iranian>

### **Iran begins mechanical test of new advanced centrifuge**

Tehran Times, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Iran announced on Tuesday that it will unveil a new, advanced kind of centrifuge on April 10 in the latest move to ratchet up nuclear activities as diplomats from Iran and 5+1 nations gather in Vienna to discuss ways to revive a 2015 nuclear deal. One of the advances in the field of nuclear enrichment is the beginning of the mechanical test of IR-9 centrifuge, which

has the capacity of 50 SWUs (separative work units), Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said. He pointed out that this machine is one of the most important completely indigenous centrifuges in Iran, which manufactures and operates with new standard methods.

According to an anonymous official from the AEOI, the advanced IR-9 centrifuges have a capacity of 40-50 SWUs, which are “practically twice the capacity of IR-8 centrifuges.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459516/Iran-begins-mechanical-test-of-new-advanced-centrifuge>

### **'India doubling down on Chabahar port project as strategic counter to China BRI gains momentum'**

Tehran Times, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

By the end of May, India will begin full-scale operations in its first foreign port venture at Iran’s Chabahar, a facility that opens on the Gulf of Oman that will aim to facilitate more South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia trade, Asia Times wrote on Sunday, April 4. India’s \$500 million investment represents a clear and potent commercial challenge to China’s massive port investment in neighboring Pakistan’s Gwadar, a key component of Beijing’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India has nearly completed development of two terminals at Chabahar’s Shahid Beheshti complex that opens onto the Gulf of Oman. “I will inaugurate the fully operationalized Chabahar port in April or May,” Mansukh Mandaviya, India’s ports, and shipping minister, said in a recent virtual discussion on Iran’s Chabahar port.

India has supplied two large cargo-moving cranes and will deliver two more in the

coming weeks before the facility’s expected ceremonial opening next month.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459515/India-doubling-down-on-Chabahar-port-project-as-strategic-counter>

### **Salehi says Iran has produced 57 kilograms of 20% enriched uranium**

Tehran Times, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

The capacity of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) for uranium enrichment has reached 16,500 SWUs, AEOI chief Ali Akbar Salehi announced on Wednesday. SWU stands for separative work unit. Salehi, a nuclear physicist, also said Iran’s reserves of nuclear fuel enriched to 20 percent has reached 57 kilograms. “Today the capacity of Iran’s enrichment has reached 16,500 SWUs and we have 57 kilograms of 20-percent uranium,” Salehi told reporters after a cabinet meeting. The AEOI head went on to say that he was sure that the nuclear industry would not be stopped or slowed down by the JCPOA, the common name for the 2015 nuclear deal. “Compare for yourself what we had in 1392 (2013) in different fields and what we have now.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/459596/Salehi-says-Iran-has-produced-57-kilograms-of-20-enriched-uranium>

### **Iran announces ‘incident’ at Natanz nuclear plant**

Tehran Times, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), announced on Sunday that an “incident” has occurred at the Natanz nuclear plant affecting the plant’s electrical grid. He said the incident happened on Sunday early morning and it did not lead to human casualties or pollution. Last year in

early July, a mysterious explosion shook the plant. Later on, Kamalvandi announced that the explosion that occurred at the Natanz nuclear facility on July 2 was an “act of sabotage.” “Security investigations confirm the sabotage [nature] of this action and what is certain is that an explosion took place in Natanz,” he said. The latest incident at Natanz coincided with the National Day of Nuclear Technology in Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45968/4/Iran-announces-incident-at-Natanz-nuclear-plant>

### **Zarif: ‘Nuclear terrorism’ occurred at Natanz**

Tehran Times, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif who attended a session of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on Monday described the incident at the Natanz enrichment facility as a “nuclear terrorism”. Iran's response to the sabotage act is to use this threat as an opportunity to install newer and more advanced centrifuges at the nuclear enrichment facility, parliamentary committee spokesman Abolfazl Amouei quoted Zarif as telling the MPs present at the session. “About the incident at the Natanz nuclear site, Mr. Zarif said that different aspects of the incident are being investigated, but initial assessments indicate that criminal acts and nuclear terrorism have taken place, which is why it could be harmful. Although no material leaks occurred, they tried to influence the nuclear program and the enrichment process at the Natanz nuclear site by sabotaging the electricity,” Amouei said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45973/9/Zarif-Nuclear-terrorism-occurred-at-Natanz>

### **The usual culprits**

Tehran Times, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Iranian officials have officially blamed the sabotage that targeted the Natanz nuclear enrichment plant on Israel while taking into consideration an American role in the sabotage before drawing a conclusion. Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, said on Monday that Israel was behind the Natanz sabotage. Speaking at a weekly press conference, Khatibzadeh described the sabotage as a “trap” set by Israel to disrupt the process of lifting U.S. sanctions on Iran. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif offered further details about the motivations behind the sabotage. He said the Israelis want to disrupt the ongoing nuclear talks in Vienna. The chief Iranian diplomat said, “The Zionists want to take revenge on the Iranian people for their success in lifting the cruel sanctions, but we will not allow this and we will take revenge for these actions from the Zionists themselves.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45976/6/The-usual-culprits>

### **Iran to replace damaged centrifuges at Natanz with more advanced ones**

Tehran Times, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Iran has vowed to replace damaged centrifuges at Natanz nuclear enrichment plant with advanced ones after the plant suffered a problem involving its electrical distribution grid. Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry, said on Monday that the incident caused damages to the plant’s centrifuges, which he identified to be of IR1 type. Speaking at a weekly press briefing, Khatibzadeh said, “All the centrifuges knocked out due to this incident were of IR1 type and they will be replaced with advanced centrifuges. The Islamic Republic now has the ability at the

highest level to replace these [damaged centrifuges] with the most advanced ones.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45976/9/Iran-to-replace-damaged-centrifuges-at-Natanz-with-more-advanced>

### **Iran opens National Center for Quantum Technology**

Tehran Times, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, was present at a ceremony opening the National Center for Quantum Technology. He talked about progresses made by the Iranian scientists in this field. Calling quantum technology “a very important field”, he said, “Today we experience quantum in the fields of computers, biology, sensitive sensor construction, and simulation.” Salehi, a nuclear physicist, also said, “Today, advanced countries are investing billions in this field, and Iran is the only leading country in this field in West Asia.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45977/6/Iran-opens-National-Center-for-Quantum-Technology>

### **Iran starts enriching uranium to 60% purity**

Tehran Times, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Abbas Araghchi, Iran's deputy foreign minister, announced in Vienna on Tuesday that Iran has sent a letter to the IAEA informing the body that the Islamic Republic intends to start enriching uranium to up to 60% purity. Araghchi broke the story as he visited Vienna on Tuesday for nuclear deal talks with P4 + 1 group, which is set to start on Thursday. Abbas Araghchi emphasized that another 1,000 centrifuges with 50% more capacity will be added to the existing machines in Natanz, in addition to replacing the damaged machines.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45980/1/Iran-starts-enriching-uranium-to-60-purity>

### **We will avenge sabotage in Natanz in the aggressor's land, says government**

Tehran Times, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Government spokesman said on Tuesday that Iran will retaliate against the sabotage attack on the Natanz nuclear facility in the right time at the aggressor's land.

Speaking at his weekly press briefing, Ali Rabiei condemned the terrorist act at the Natanz nuclear site and stressed that "action against the Natanz nuclear site shows the defeat of the enemies of Iran's industrial and political progresses."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45980/8/We-will-avenge-sabotage-in-Natanz-in-the-aggressor-s-land-says>

### **Nuclear chief says 60% uranium is used for radiopharmaceuticals**

Tehran Times, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said on Wednesday that Iran's move to produce uranium up to 60% purity is in line with the parliamentary ratification, noting that this level of enrichment is needed for producing radiopharmaceuticals. Speaking to ISNA, Ali Akbar Salehi said, “We do not want to use 60% enriched uranium as fuel for the Tehran reactor. We want to produce U3O8 (uranium oxide, or yellowcake) targets, which needs uranium with 60% purity. Thus, we produce targets, using 60% uranium.”

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/45984/2/Nuclear-chief-says-60-uranium-is-used-for-radiopharmaceuticals>

## IRAQ

### Rockets land near Iraqi air base ahead of strategic dialogue with US

Al-Monitor, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Two rockets landed outside Iraq's Balad air base on Sunday ahead of planned talks between Washington and Baghdad officials over the future of US troop presence in Iraq. No personnel were injured and no damage was inflicted, the Iraqi Army's Maj. Gen. Tahseen al-Khafaji told the Associated Press. Balad, which lies some 50 miles north of the Iraqi capital, is among the few Iraqi bases still housing US military personnel, who surged back into the country in 2014 to crush the then-rising Islamic State (IS) jihadist group. The Pentagon says some 2,500 US troops remain in Iraq alongside other nations' forces as advisers to Iraq's military on security operations.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/rockets-land-near-iraqi-air-base-ahead-strategic-dialogue-us#ixzz6vAbJT8tb>

### Car bomb kills four in Baghdad

Al-Monitor, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

At least four people are dead and another 17 injured from a car bomb in Baghdad's Sadr City on Thursday, Iraqi police said.

Citing police sources, Reuters reports the car was parked at a bustling used equipment market in a mostly Shiite neighborhood. The blast destroyed five cars and witnesses described ambulances rushing to the scene. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion. The security situation in Baghdad has improved since US-backed Iraqi forces declared victory over the Islamic State in December 2017. Remnants of the group remain in

Sunni-dominated northern and western Iraq and continue to wage a low-level insurgency targeting security forces.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/car-bomb-kills-four-baghdad#ixzz6vAc3Sm4V>

## ISRAEL

### After Iran ship blast, Gantz says Israel preparing for military threats

Al-Monitor, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Defense Minister Benny Gantz declined to react to the report by The New York Times that Israel was behind the attack yesterday on the Iranian Saviz boat, stating simply that Israel is preparing for threats on all possible fronts. Defense Minister Benny Gantz said this morning Israel would take military action anywhere there was a threat against it. "The State of Israel must defend itself. Every place we find an operational challenge or operational need, we will continue to act. We are preparing ourselves at this time on numerous fronts: at our southern and northern borders, as well as vis-a-vis the threats that Iran is presenting, whether directly or indirectly via its proxies in the Middle East," said Gantz.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/after-iran-ship-blast-gantz-says-israel-preparing-military-threats#ixzz6vBnesWXE>

### Sudan's Cabinet votes to repeal 1958 Israel boycott

Al-Monitor, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Sudan's Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to do away with a decades-old law boycotting Israel in the latest step toward diplomatic normalization between the countries. Since 1958, the law has

forbidden Sudanese entities from doing business with Israelis and barred diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. Its repeal could open the door further for official visits and expanding bilateral trade ties. Before taking effect, the bill requires joint approval by the interim government's Sovereign Council and the Cabinet.

The move is the most recent sign that Sudan's transitional government is moving forward with the United States' request to establish ties with Israel following the popular ouster of longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/sudans-cabinet-votes-repeal-1958-israel-boycott#ixzz6vBoAZOGb>

### **Attack on 3rd Israeli-owned ship reported in Gulf of Oman**

Al-Monitor, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Reports from Lebanon say an Israeli-owned ship called the Hyperion was attacked the afternoon of April 13 in United Arab Emirates waters. The Lebanese Al Mayadeen news outlet, affiliated with Hezbollah, said the ship came under fire near the emirate of Fujairah in the Gulf of Oman. The vehicle-carrier vessel, owned by the Israeli Ray Shipping company and Israeli businessman Rami Ungar, has been sailing under a Bahaman flag for six years. The ship was reported to have sustained light damage above its waterline. No injuries were reported, and the ship did not need to return to port for repair.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/attack-3rd-israeli-owned-ship-reported-gulf-oman#ixzz6vBomiNSu>

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **Yemen's Houthis claim drone attack on Riyadh**

Al-Monitor, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021

The Houthi rebels in Yemen claimed they targeted Saudi capital of Riyadh on Thursday with four armed drones, the latest reported attack in their stepped-up cross-border campaign against the kingdom. Saudi Arabia hasn't confirmed the attack, which Houthi military spokesman Yehya Sarea said targeted "sensitive and important sites" in Riyadh.

"Our operations continue as long as the aggression and siege continue," Sarea tweeted on Thursday, adding, "The designated target has been hit with high precision."

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/yemens-houthis-claim-drone-attack-riyadh#ixzz6vAmj7o4l>

### **US aircraft carrier returns to Middle East as Suez Canal opens**

Al-Monitor, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier and accompanying destroyers passed through the Suez Canal on Saturday following a weeklong stoppage of traffic through the vital thoroughfare caused by a stuck container ship.

The Eisenhower approached Port Said late last week following Egypt's announcement that the stuck ship, the MV Ever Given, had been dislodged from its location near the canal's southern mouth on the Red Sea. The US carrier is likely to take command of the US Navy-led Task Force 50 in the Gulf region. The French carrier Charles de Gaulle took command of the task force at

Washington's request late last month, according to Naval News.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/us-aircraft-carrier-returns-middle-east-suez-canal-opens#ixzz6vAmsgmgz>

## SYRIA

### **Russian MoD: Al-Nusra terrorists carry out 30 attacks in Idlib de-escalation zone**

Syrian Arab News Agency, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021

Russian Defense Ministry said that terrorist organizations positioned in de-escalation zone in Idlib and number of areas and sites in Idlib countryside carried out 30 attacks over the past 24 hours on areas in countryside of Idlib, Hama, and Lattakia. A statement by the Ministry, posted on its website, said that 15 attacks by Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists were observed in Idlib province, 8 in Lattakia, and 7 in Hama province.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=228491>

### **Syria rejects OPCW report about Saraqeb alleged incident**

Syrian Arab News Agency, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Syria affirmed its rejection and condemnation of the misleading report released by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) about the alleged Saraqeb incident, stressing that it includes fabricated facts. "The OPCW released on April 12th, 2021 a misleading report by the so-called Investigation and Identification Team, that Syria and a number of countries have announced it is an illegitimate and incredible team," Foreign and Expatriates Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday. It added that this report has included false

and fabricated conclusion which represents another scandal for the OPCW and the inquiry teams that will be added to the scandal of the reports of Douma incident in 2018, and Ltamenah in 2017. It added that this report aims at forging facts and accusing the Syrian government of using toxic materials for an alleged incident in the town of Saraqeb on February 4th.

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=229860>

## TURKEY

### **Turkey, US defense ministers discuss cooperation, security**

Daily Sabah, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021

The defense chiefs of Turkey and the United States held a phone call on Thursday, discussing regional security and bilateral defense cooperation. Turkish National Defense Minister Hulusi Akar and U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin exchanged views and underlined the significance of strategic relations during the talk, according to Turkey's National Defense Ministry. "The two leaders also discussed the positive diplomatic developments and efforts to reduce all tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean, where the Secretary welcomed ongoing exploratory talks between NATO Allies Turkey and Greece and the commitment of both governments to this process," it said in a statement.

"Secretary Austin noted the importance of working to strengthen U.S-Turkey military-to-military cooperation, and urged Turkey not to retain the Russian S-400 missile defense system," the Pentagon said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/turkey-us-defense-ministers-discuss-cooperation-security>

### **US sanctions on Turkish officials over S-400s come into force**

Daily Sabah, 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

The United States' sanctions targeting some Turkish officials and institutions over the country's purchase of the advanced S-400 Russian air defense system will be in force as of Wednesday, the State Department announced late Monday. "The Secretary of State has determined, pursuant to the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017 (CAATSA), that the Turkish entity Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), formerly known as the Undersecretariat for Defense Industries (SSM), has knowingly, on or after August 2, 2017, engaged in a significant transaction with a person that is part of, or operates for or on behalf of, the defense or intelligence sectors of the Government of the Russian Federation," the statement said.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/us-sanctions-on-turkish-officials-over-s-400s-come-into-force>

### **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan: Our Diplomatic, Political, Intelligence Cooperation With Egypt Will Hopefully Lead To Stronger Ties**

Memri TV, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said that Turkey would like the intelligence, diplomatic, and political cooperation and discussions with Egypt to lead to stronger ties between the two countries. He made these remarks in a public address aired on Bloomberg HT (Turkey) on March 12, 2021. Erdoğan said that relations are conducted at one level below the "top level," and added: "It is not possible to place the people of Egypt beside the people of Greece." He continued to say that Turkey

was "saddened" by a joint Saudi-Greek military drill.

<https://www.memri.org/tv/turkey-president-recep-tayyip-erdogan-want-intelligence-diplomatic-political-cooperation-stronger-ties-egypt>

### **Turkey's FM urges Canada to review defense industry restrictions**

Daily Sabah, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu called on his Canadian counterpart to review Ottawa's defense industry restrictions against Turkey, diplomatic sources said Monday. In a phone call, Çavuşoğlu and his Canadian counterpart Marc Garneau spoke about bilateral relations, with Turkey voicing its "discomfort" over the embargo, said the sources, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media. "He conveyed concerns about Canada's stance on defense industry restrictions imposed on Turkey and requested their review," the sources said. The parts under embargo include camera systems for Baykar armed drones. Export licenses were suspended in 2019 during Turkish military activities in Syria. Restrictions were then eased but reimposed during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkeys-fm-urges-canada-to-review-defense-industry-restrictions>

### **Canada scraps drone technology export permits to Turkey**

Daily Sabah, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Canada canceled export permits for drone technology to Turkey after concluding that the country sold the equipment to the Azerbaijani military forces during fighting in the Armenian-occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, Foreign Minister Marc Garneau

said Monday. “This use was not consistent with Canadian foreign policy, nor end-use assurances given by Turkey,” Garneau said in a statement, adding he had raised his concerns with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu earlier in the day. Ottawa suspended the permits last October so it could review claims that Azerbaijani drones used in the conflict had been equipped with imaging and targeting systems made by L3Harris Wescam, the Canada-based unit of L3Harris Technologies Inc.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/canada-scraps-drone-technology-export-permits-to-turkey>

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/04/us-move-forward-23b-arms-sale-uae#ixzz6vBkGkBPL>

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### US to move forward with \$23B arms sale to UAE

Al-Monitor, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

The US administration has notified Congress that it is moving ahead with a multibillion-dollar arms package to the United Arab Emirates that was put on hold in January, the State Department confirmed. A spokesperson for the State Department told Reuters the US government would proceed with the sale “even as we continue reviewing details and consulting with Emirati officials.” According to the Emirati Embassy, the \$23.4 billion sale, which was finalized with the Trump administration a day before President Joe Biden’s inauguration, includes 50 F-35 fighter jets, 18 armament-ready MQ-9B drones and a package of precision munitions. The transfer would make the UAE the first Arab country to obtain Lockheed Martin’s F-35, the world’s most advanced fighter aircraft.