

# *German Weekly Reveals Turkish Plan to Start War with Syria*

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Berlin, July 9 (RHC)-- A 2014 Turkish Foreign Ministry session, which featured high-level Turkish officials discussing how Turkey could start a war with Syria, was reportedly recorded and leaked by the US National Security Agency (NSA).

The German weekly magazine Focus attributed the leak to the NSA, reporting on the security meeting among former Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu, National Intelligence Organization (MİT) head Hakan Fidan, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioğlu and Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Yaşar Güler.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was prime minister at the time, banned the video-sharing website YouTube after the leak, which caught Fidan saying he would send four men from Syria to attack Turkey to "make up a cause of war." Güler is heard saying in response, "What you're going to do is a direct cause of war."

Currently serving as Turkish prime minister, Davutoğlu said on July 3rd that his country would not hesitate to launch a military intervention in Syria in case of what he referred to as a potential threat to Turkey's "security."

The Turkish newspaper Hürriyet Daily also reported recently that the Turkish military had called on all troop commanders stationed along its border with Syria to be present at a meeting aimed at discussing a possible intervention in the crisis-hit country.

Erdogan has accused Syrian Kurds of trying to establish a state in Syria's north, saying Ankara will leave no stone unturned to prevent such an establishment near its borders.

Ankara has long been engaged in a conflict with the Turkish Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been seeking an autonomous Kurdish region inside Turkey since the 1980s.

Turkey has also been one of the main supporters of the militancy against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, with reports showing that Ankara actively trains and arms militants operating in Syria.

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