

In this week’s Türkiye in Focus, we delve into the following topics:

- A series of developments and claims related to Türkiye in the context of the Gaza conflict.
- President Erdoğan’s participation in the G20 summit in Brazil.
- Unanticipated “resignations” within the MHP.

Rumours About Türkiye’s New Role in Gaza Mediation

In the past two weeks, a series of developments have unfolded. Initially, Qatar [announced](#) that it had suspended its mediation efforts between Israel and Hamas, citing a lack of seriousness and willingness from both parties. Subsequently, Israeli media reported that Qatar had closed Hamas’s office in Doha, with plans for it to be relocated to Türkiye. However, this claim was



(TUR Presidency / Murat Kula - Anadolu Agency)

[denied](#) by Ankara. On the other hand, it is known that Hamas officials frequently visit Türkiye.

Another uncorroborated [claim](#) is that the head of Israel’s domestic intelligence agency, Shin Bet, made a secret visit to Türkiye. It is said that discussions during this visit focused on a potential ceasefire and a hostage agreement.

Meanwhile, another noteworthy development was the visit of Qatar’s Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to Ankara last week. During this visit, various trade and military agreements were signed. Although no official statement was made regarding Hamas or Gaza, Türkiye’s Directorate of Communications [emphasised](#) that the visit occurred after Doha paused its mediation role.

It remains to be seen whether Türkiye will play a role in efforts to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza. At this stage, no concrete developments have taken place on this matter. Incidentally, Qatar’s foreign minister stated this week that they are [ready to resume](#) their mediation role if the parties demonstrate the necessary willingness.

President Erdoğan Attended G20 Leaders’ Summit in Rio de Janeiro

Researcher Burak Elmalı evaluated President’s visit to Brazil.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the G20 Leaders’ Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, underscoring Türkiye’s commitment to peace and its proactive approach to mediation in global affairs.

In his address, President Erdoğan renewed his call for a permanent ceasefire to secure peace and stability in the Middle East. He criticised the international community’s inaction in response to Israel’s expansionist aggression and highlighted Türkiye’s diplomatic efforts, which ensured that the summit’s final communiqué addressed the utmost need for a permanent ceasefire for the devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Speaking during the session titled “Social Inclusion and the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty,” Erdoğan painted a dire picture of the situation in Gaza:

“The risk of famine in Gaza has reached ‘catastrophic’ levels, according to international standards. Over 96% of the population—more than 2 million people—lack access to adequate food and clean water. With escalating attacks and the harsh winter approaching, living conditions are deteriorating daily. As Türkiye, we have delivered over 86,000 tons of aid to Gaza, with our assistance to Lebanon exceeding 1,300 tons. In light of this

grave humanitarian disaster, I once again call for the immediate establishment of a lasting and comprehensive ceasefire.”

During the summit, Erdoğan also engaged with leaders of MIKTA, a platform for informal consultation and coordination among Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Türkiye, and Australia. Furthermore, he reiterated Türkiye’s readiness to continue mediating in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Expressing hope for stronger international cooperation, he voiced optimism that the new administration under President Trump would adopt more constructive and supportive stance to resolve the crisis.



(TUR Presidency/Murat Cetinmuhurdar - Anadolu Agency)

Resignations in MHP

MHP Deputy Chairman Semih Yalçın announced that three MHP MPs were asked to resign due to an ongoing investigation within the party, and their resignation letters have been accepted. Another Deputy Chairman, Feti Yıldız, described MHP in a statement on his X (formerly Twitter) account as a place for individuals who “do not abuse their authority, put their ego aside, and avoid arrogance.”

Among the names asked to resign, Bolu MP İsmail Akgül stands out. Allegations had surfaced linking Akgül to the case of the murdered former Ülkü Ocakları Chairman Sinan Ateş. It was claimed that the murderer stayed for a while in a mountain house owned by Akgül’s father and that this house had been searched by the police. Ayşe Ateş, the widow of Sinan Ateş, remarked on

İsmail Akgül’s resignation, stating, ‘I hope this decision pertains to the ongoing investigation, which remains without an indictment at this stage.’

In early October, the court handed down severe sentences to the hitman and his accomplices in the Sinan Ateş case, though it was determined that some individuals would undergo separate trials. Throughout the proceedings, the MHP leadership faced considerable criticism. Meanwhile, President Erdoğan had earlier hosted Ayşe Ateş and her children at the presidential palace, demonstrating his support.

While the reasons for the MPs’ resignations have not been clearly stated, some interpret them as part of a process of self-criticism and housecleaning within the MHP.

Highlights

- President Erdoğan announced that Türkiye will establish a space base in Somalla, strategically located near the equator, a prime spot for launching spacecraft. This project, part of Türkiye’s broader vision for the “Century of Türkiye,” is expected to boost the country’s position in the global space race.
- Türkiye’s first quantum computer, developed through the efforts of TOBB University of Economics and Technology, has become operational.
- The Bayraktar TB3, during its test on the TCG Anadolu ship, became the world’s first unmanned aerial vehicle capable of taking off and landing on a short-runway ship.

Recent Publications by TRT World Research Centre

- [AI Regulation in Türkiye: Bringing International Laws into the Discussion](#) Paper by Şeymanur Yönt
- [Trump 2.0 Middle East Strategy: Continuity or Escalation?](#) Policy Outlook by Burak Elmalı



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