

In this week's *Türkiye in Focus*:

- The Antalya Diplomacy Forum, highlighting Türkiye's proactive foreign policy and diplomacy, was held.
- Following the DEM Party delegation's meeting with the President, the process is expected to accelerate.
- Fake news involving the CHP were widely circulated on social media, prompting government denials.

Antalya Diplomacy Forum Brought Together Decision-Makers from Across the Globe

Türkiye is going through one of the most dynamic periods in its foreign policy. Through diplomatic efforts spearheaded by the President and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye has taken a prominent role in addressing global issues such as the Syria crisis, the war in Ukraine, Israel's genocidal policies against Palestine, and political crisis situations in Africa. In today's increasingly fragile international order, Türkiye stands out as one of the few countries capable of maintaining constructive relations with different blocs and playing an effective diplomatic role. It also acts as a communication bridge between major power centres such as the U.S., Russia, the EU, and China.

Annual international events such as the Antalya Diplomacy Forum and the TRT World Forum have evolved in harmony with Türkiye's increasingly proactive and ambitious foreign

policy. These gatherings provide a platform for political leaders, diplomats, and academics from around the world to engage in dialogue and exchange ideas.

In this context, the Antalya Diplomacy Forum—held on April 11–13 under the theme "Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World"—brought together influential global decision-makers, intellectuals, and diplomats from 148 countries, including 19 heads of state, 64 ministers, and 20 deputy leaders.

President Erdoğan also took an active role at the Forum, engaging in an intense diplomatic schedule. He held bilateral meetings with leaders from 14 states and autonomous administrations, including Syria, Hungary, Sudan, Qatar, and Palestine.



(TCCB / Mustafa Kamacı - Anadolu Agency)

The "Terror-Free Türkiye" Agenda Regains Momentum

Following President Erdoğan's recent meeting with the İmralı Delegation of the DEM Party last week, a renewed sense of progress has emerged in the "Terror-Free Türkiye" process. After the meeting, the DEM Party issued a statement emphasising that "we are in a more hopeful position than yesterday." This week, delegation member Pervin Buldan stated during a panel in Italy that the entire process could reach its conclusion by the end of June.

Following the meeting with the President, it was announced that the delegation would convene with Minister of Justice Yılmaz Tunç on Friday, April 18. This meeting was expected to address technical details concerning potential legal regulations—an important step in turning the process into practice.

However, on Tuesday evening, delegation member Sırrı Süreyya Önder suffered a heart attack and was rushed to the hospital. After surgery, he remains in intensive care in critical condition. In response to this development, Minister of Justice Tunç stated, "Our priority is Mr. Sırrı's recovery," and confirmed that the planned meeting would be postponed to a later date.

Meanwhile, politicians across the spectrum—including Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz, Speaker of Parliament Numan Kurtulmuş, AK Party Spokesperson Ömer Çelik, and CHP leader Özgür Özel—visited the hospital. President Erdoğan reportedly called Önder's daughter as well as Pervin Buldan to express his well wishes. Numerous political figures, artists, and prominent members of society also extended their support and get-well messages.

Önder is known for his strong advocacy for peace, his wit, and his active involvement in the past two peace processes. He is a well-regarded figure in both political and artistic circles,

maintaining positive relationships across various segments of society in Türkiye. The widespread support shown for him may also be interpreted as a reflection of the strong political will and societal backing behind the current peace initiative.

Regardless of Önder's health situation, it is reasonable to expect that the postponed meeting between the DEM Party delegation and the Minister of Justice will take place soon.

In a parallel development, reports indicate that the U.S.-backed terror group YPG, an offshoot of the PKK, has withdrawn from certain regions in Syria. Minister of National Defence Yaşar Güler also expressed satisfaction with the ongoing dialogue between the SDF—the umbrella group in the northeast dominated by the YPG, which still controls significant regions of northeastern Syria—and the new administration in Damascus. Given that Syria is a key aspect of this process, it can be said that developments in this area are currently moving in a promising direction.



(TCCB / Murat Çetinmühürdar - Anadolu Agency)

Disinformation on Social Media

Amid Türkiye's rapidly evolving and dynamic political landscape, some social media figures have been observed trying to exploit the situation for clickbait. A notable example of this occurred last week. On Wednesday evening, several prominent journalists on social media claimed that the CHP had called all its parliamentarians to party headquarters for Thursday, and that the Ministry of Interior was transferring police units from various provinces to Ankara.

These claims were soon accompanied by allegations that a trustee would be appointed to CHP and that the Ministry of Interior was preparing for potential social unrest. The speculation rapidly gained traction across social media

platforms, where increasingly polarising and inflammatory rhetoric began to surface.

However, within a short time, government officials issued firm statements denying the allegations. It was later revealed that the CHP was launching a signature campaign for its detained mayor, Ekrem İmamoğlu, and that the Ministry of Interior had been preparing a large-scale anti-narcotics operation scheduled for Thursday morning.

Investigations have since been launched targeting individuals known for spreading disinformation on social media.

Highlights

- In two large-scale operations carried out consecutively on April 15 and April 17, numerous individuals were detained on charges of membership in criminal organisations and drug trafficking. The operations involved the participation of thousands of police officers.
- Türkiye has issued strong objections to aspects of Greece's "Maritime Spatial Planning" (MSP), asserting that the plan encroaches upon Türkiye's maritime jurisdiction in the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Türkiye has slowed its \$23 billion F-16 deal with the U.S., exploring alternatives like the Eurofighter Typhoon and a potential return to the F-35 program, according to media reports.

Recent Publications by TRT World Research Centre

- [From Protest to Polarisation: How the CHP Squandered Its Political Capital](#) by Murat Selvi
- [Can Trump drive a wedge between Xi and Putin?](#) By Burak Elmali



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turkiyeinfofocus@gmail.com