

Lack of logic in Fidan's claims

Why is aiding regional gov'ts wrong for Iran, justified for Turkey?

PERSPECTIVE

While Turkey's foreign minister sought to portray his government as concerned about the Syrian people and the country's future — and in doing so, pointed fingers at Iran — he should be asked: Which regime is occupying Syria's Golan, bombing parts of the country, and advancing into its territories? Is it Iran threatening Syria's territorial integrity, or Israel?

Relations between Iran and Turkey, as neighboring civilizations, have a long, complex history characterized by wars and peace. Over the past four decades, these ties have been shaped by various variables, yet both nations have strived to uphold neighborly principles while preventing external interference and misunderstandings from undermining the relationship. Recent regional developments following the October 7, 2023 attack by the Hamas resistance group on Israel have accelerated these variables so rapidly that many officials, analysts, and media in the region have been left with little time to comprehend events, make informed decisions, or comment on them. However, the pace of developments should not distance regional leaders from the logic of events, lead them into contradictions, or — like Hakan Fidan, Turkey's Foreign Minister — result in analytical and strategic miscalculations.

Fidan's remarks, Iran's response

In an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera Arabic on Feb. 26, Turkey's foreign minister discussed regional developments and leveled accusations at the Islamic Republic and Tehran's regional policies, prompting a response from Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

Responding to claims that Iran supports Syrian Kurds, Fidan asserted, "If this is Iran's policy in Syria, I do not think it is correct. If you try to create unrest in another country by supporting a group there, another country might support a group in your country to create unrest for you. 'Nothing can remain hidden in today's world. The capabilities you have, others also possess. Therefore, if you do not want stones thrown at your window, you should not throw stones at others' windows.'"

Fidan also addressed Iran's regional policies, claiming, "Iran has paid a price exceeding its gains to maintain its influence in Iraq and Syria and has learned major lessons from recent developments."

These remarks drew a sharp response from Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, who emphasized in a statement, "Over the past five decades, Iran has pursued no regional ambitions. Our sole concern has been supporting the Palestinian people and their cause in resisting occupation, aggression, and preventing Israel's domination over the region. We were the first country to oppose and counter the coup against Turkey's government. We were among the first to welcome the PKK's disarmament, considering it a vital step to-

ward enhancing security in our neighbor Turkey. We remain steadfast in our principled positions and do not shift policies day to day."

Contradictions

The Turkish foreign minister's half-hour interview with Al Jazeera, particularly the sections addressing Iran, contains a series of contradictions that warrant careful scrutiny.



Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) members march while holding the group's flag and photo of one of the group's founding members, Abdullah Öcalan. irandiplomacy.ir

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran, guided by its policy of neighborliness and regional security cooperation, views the stability of all neighboring countries as integral to its own stability. Tehran believes that insecurity, terrorism, and war within any Middle Eastern nation affect the entire region, with instability spilling over borders. Iran considers the legitimate government of a country as the rightful guardian of its territorial security. Thus, when Syria's legal government requested advisory assistance to protect its sovereignty, Iran did not hesitate to respond and has maintained a presence in the country while adhering to its principles. This mirrors its actions in 2016, when Iran supported Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's call for help during the illegal coup attempt, leading to the coup's failure. This policy of aiding legitimate regional governments remains consistent. Yet, the Turkish foreign minister condemns Iran's support for Syria's legal government while deliberately overlooking Turkey's own request for similar assistance. This contradiction raises a critical question: If supporting a legitimate government is commendable, why should Iran be criticized for it? If not, why did Ankara seek Tehran's help in 2016?

2. The Turkish Foreign Minister's accusation against Tehran over backing resistance groups reeks of hypocrisy—a classic case of 'do as I say, not as I do.' Turkey openly supports ideological groups (e.g., the Muslim Brotherhood), ethnic factions (e.g., Turkic groups), and protest movements in Libya as part of its doctrine. Covertly, there are allegations of Turkish financial and even military aid to terrorist groups

While Israel attacked Iran's defense systems, Turkey adopted a hypocritical stance toward Gaza's genocide. Despite Erdogan's loud rhetoric against Netanyahu, Turkey-Israel trade relations remain unscathed. Iran's counterterrorism record over the past decade is too clear to be reduced to territorial interests. Iran lost top commanders in this fight — These sacrifices cannot be measured by any expedient logic —

like Jabhat al-Nusra. This hypocrisy begs the question: If Ankara proudly supports groups like Jabhat al-Nusra (now Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham), why oppose Iran's backing of resistance factions (even if it exists)? If such support is legitimate, why deny Iran? Conversely, if it is illicit, how can Turkey's leadership justify their family's financial ties to groups like Hamas and Tahrir al-Sham? This duality epitomizes the adage: 'Do as I say, not as I do.' The core fallacy here lies in framing resistance groups as Iranian proxies — a narrative pushed by the West due to its failure to grasp Iran's relationship with these factions. Iranian officials have repeatedly clarified that the Islamic Republic and regional resistance groups share ideological and geopolitical principles, not a patron-client dynamic. Tehran rejects the notion of "proxy forces," viewing such labels as disrespectful to both sides.

3. Over the past four decades, Iran has been recognized by regional states as the foremost force combating state terrorism (the Zionist regime) and group terrorism (Daesh, Al-Qaeda, Tahrir al-Sham, etc.). By historical and statistical accounts, Iran itself is the greatest victim of this phenomenon. Dismissing Iran's efforts against Daesh as mere self-interest ignores realities that will ultimately haunt the dismissers. Tehran, dubbed Tel Aviv's "greatest enemy," has consistently framed the Palestinian issue not as an Arab-Jewish conflict but as a humanitarian crisis, opposing Israeli occupation with all means — even military confrontation.

the very kind Fidan espouses.

4. The Turkish foreign minister attempted to portray Turkey as concerned for Syria's people and future, while blaming Iran. Yet the critical question remains: Which regime occupies Syria's Golan Heights, bombs its territories, and advances into its land? Is it Iran threatening Syria's sovereignty, or the Zionist regime? Ignoring Israel's occupation and the US-Israeli role in regional instability—as Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson noted — is a grave error. Accusing Iran while the primary source of insecurity (Israel) remains unchecked is a miscalculation whose consequences will emerge once the "honeymoon" between Golan's occupiers and Ankara ends.

5. Turkey's foreign minister accuses Tehran of 'throwing stones at their neighbors' windows' — but if we're talking about hypocrisy, who here truly lives in a glass house? But who is the real stone-thrower? Has Iran spent billions meddling in Egypt or Libya's internal affairs? Has Iran occupied parts of Syria under the pretext of countering Kurdish groups or bombed Iraqi soil? Has Tehran launched Turkish-language media networks to sway Turkish public opinion? Has Iran funded or supported separatist groups in Turkey?

6. Fidan claims Iran's support for resistance groups has "failed," yet a shrewd politician like him — likened to a fox in his own country — should have foreseen the phoenix of resistance rising from the ashes of



Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. [REUTERS](https://reuters.com)

Gaza and Lebanon. He must answer: If Iran's strategy has truly failed, why does Israel still negotiate with Hamas for prisoner swaps? Why did thousands in Beirut mourn the Hezbollah secretary-general? And if resistance is futile, why is Ankara anxious?

Regional cooperation

As Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson stressed, Iran's neighborhood policy is rooted in steadfast adherence to principles, not shifting stances. Based on this logical framework, Tehran opposes any hegemony over regional states, including Turkey, while advocating cooperation for shared security, prosperity, and stability. Iran emphasizes that blaming regional states — while Trump and Netanyahu escalate adventures like displacing Gazans — amounts to rolling out the red carpet for their domination. Tehran remains committed to self-sustaining security through regional partnerships and expects the same approach from neighbors. Policymakers in Iran's neighboring states should assess their actions toward Tehran not through the lens of recent months but through historical context and an unpredictable future — and shape their policies accordingly.

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People move to stop tanks controlled by putschists, Ankara, Turkey, on July 16, 2016.

[AP](https://ap.com)



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