

## Erdogan, Putin Discuss Regional Security, Call for Stability in Syria and Black Sea



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Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed regional stability, focusing on Syria and Black Sea security, during a phone call on Friday, according to Erdogan's office.

Erdogan stressed the importance of Türkiye-Russia cooperation in ensuring lasting peace in Syria while safeguarding its territorial integrity. He urged joint efforts to counter destabilization attempts and called for the complete removal of sanctions on Syria. He also advocated for restoring Syria's resources to its central government and integrating the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces into the national administration to strengthen national unity.

On broader regional security, Erdogan reiterated Türkiye's commitment to combating terrorist threats and emphasized Ankara's willingness to host peace negotiations. He described Türkiye-Russia cooperation as essential in addressing regional challenges.

Regarding Black Sea security, Erdogan highlighted the need to protect commercial navigation and prevent the region from becoming a conflict zone.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin reported that Putin briefed Erdogan on recent discussions between Russian and U.S. officials in Riyadh, as well as ongoing talks with Washington regarding the Ukraine conflict. The leaders also discussed the renewal of the Black Sea safe navigation initiative.