

Turkey's downing of a Russian jet 'treacherous war crime': Vladimir Putin

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Moscow: Russia's President Vladimir Putin called Thursday for a broad international front against terrorism and accused Turkey of trading oil with the Islamic State group.

Speaking in his state-of-the-nation address televised live, Putin called for an end to what he called double standards that hampered uniting global efforts in fighting terrorism.

He specifically targeted Turkey, accusing it of buying oil from the Islamic State group. He said that Turkey's downing of a Russian jet at the border with Syria was a "treacherous war crime."

"Allah must have punished Turkey's ruling clique by depriving it of sense and reason," he said.

Turkey said it shot down the plane after it violated its airspace for 17 seconds despite repeated warnings, while Russia has insisted that the aircraft stayed in Syria's airspace.

Moscow has responded to the shoot-down by deploying long-range air defense missile systems to its air base in Syria and slamming an array of economic sanctions on Turkey, including a ban on imports of fruit and vegetables and the sales of tour packages.

"We will remind them not once about what they have done, and they will feel sorry about it more than once," he said without spelling out what other actions Russia may take.

"But if anyone thinks that after committing the treacherous war crime, the killing of our people, they will get away with (the ban on imports) of tomatoes or some restrictions on construction and other industries, they are deeply mistaken."

The Turkish and Russian foreign ministers are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of an Organization for Security and Cooperation meeting in the Serbian capital Belgrade on Thursday, the first meeting between senior Turkish officials since the plane's downing.

Putin said that to efficiently combat terrorism the international community must halt any support of terrorist groups, and said that Turkey has allowed the IS to thrive by illegally purchasing its oil.

"We know who in Turkey are filling their pockets and allow terrorists to earn money by selling oil stolen from Syria," he said. "For that money the bandits are recruiting mercenaries, buying weapons and staging cruel terror attacks aimed against our citizens, as well as citizens of France, Lebanon, Mali and other countries."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has denied that his country was involved in oil trade with the IS. Erdogan has pledged to step down if Moscow proves its accusations. The Russian Defense Ministry on Wednesday released an array of satellite and aerial images which it said show hundreds of oil trucks streaming across the border. The ministry said the images definitively prove Turkey's massive oil trade with the IS.

Top Defense Ministry officials also accused Erdogan and his family of personally benefiting from the oil trade with the IS, although they didn't provide any specific evidence to back the claim.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu hit back at the Russian accusations Thursday, saying the claims were

reminiscent of "lies" produced by the "Cold War-era Soviet propaganda machine."

"During the Cold War era there was a Soviet propaganda machine. Every day it produces a variety of lies," Davutoglu said. "Some characteristics of the Soviet era are emerging one by one. No one believes the lies of the Soviet propaganda machine."

Davutoglu also renewed an accusation that Russian operations in Syria were hampering efforts to clear Turkey's border of IS militants.

- AP