

ISTANBUL (Reuters) -- Turkey's foreign ministry summoned Sweden's ambassador on Monday to request an investigation into an incident in Stockholm that it regards as insulting to President Tayyip Erdogan, two diplomatic sources said.

In the incident, they said, a group sympathetic to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) staged a protest near Turkey's embassy in Stockholm and projected what Ankara said was "terrorism propaganda" and insulting content about Erdogan onto the building.

BRUSSELS/BELGRADE (Reuters) -- The European Union warned of "escalation and violence" on Monday after Kosovo and Serbia failed to agree in emergency talks on a solution to their long-running dispute over car license plates used by the ethnic Serb minority in Kosovo.

Kosovo has attempted this year to require its Serb minority to change their old car plates that date before 1999 when Kosovo was still part of Serbia. However, this move has been met with strong and sometimes violent resistance by Serbs living in the northern part of the country.

**Viewpoint**

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**Iranian Taekwondokas Bag 3 Medals in Mexico**



**Zionist Troops Martyr Palestinian Student 'on His Way to School'**



## Turkey Plans New Ground Incursion Into Syria

ISTANBUL (AFP) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday he was mulling going beyond airstrikes and launching a ground operation in Syria following a deadly rocket strike on a Turkish border town.

Erdogan also renewed warnings that those attacking Turkey will pay dearly, a day after Ankara's forces launched air raids on bases of outlawed Kurdish groups in northern Syria and Iraq.

"There is no question that this operation be limited to only an aerial operation," Erdogan told reporters on returning to Turkey from Qatar where he attended the FIFA World Cup opening.

Erdogan spoke after a rocket strike from Syrian territory killed at least three people, including a child, in a border Turkish town.

That strike came a day after Turkey carried out air raids against the bases of Kurdish militant groups in northern Syria and Iraq which it claimed were being used to launch "terrorist" attacks on Turkish soil.

The overnight raids mainly targeting positions held by Syrian Kurdish forces in northern and northeastern Syria killed at least 31 people, according to the British-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR).

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), among those attacked, said Turkey launched new airstrikes on Monday.

The Turkish raids, codenamed Operation Claw-Sword, came a week after a blast in central Istanbul killed six people and wounded 81.

Turkey has blamed that attack on the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The blast, the deadliest in five years, revived bitter memories of a wave of nationwide attacks between 2015 and 2017.

The PKK has waged a bloody insurgency there for decades and is designated a terror group by Ankara and its Western allies.

But it has denied involvement in the Istanbul explosion. Strikes also targeted PKK bases in northern Iraq's mountainous regions of Kandil, Asos and Hakurk, and bases of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), in Ayn al-Arab (called Kobane in Kurdish), Tal Rifaat, Jazira and Derik regions in Syria, Ankara's defense ministry said.

Ankara considers the YPG to be a PKK-affiliated terror group.

Erdogan said consultations were ongoing on the strength of Ankara's military response and added that the weekend strikes were carried out by "70 planes and drones" who "penetrated 140 kilometers (87 miles) into northern Iraq and 20 kilometers into northern Syria."

An SDF spokesperson told AFP that Turkish airplanes launched on Monday fresh strikes near Kobani, a claim confirmed by the SOHR. A strike hit a regime forces position, according to the SDF.

Since the rocket attack in the morning, there has been an exchange of artillery fire between Turkish forces backed by Syrian proxies and the SDF, according to an AFP correspondent.

Erdogan also revealed he had had "no discussion with (U.S. President Joe) Biden or (Russian President Vladimir) Putin on the subject of the operation."

Turkey's latest military push could create problems for its complex relations with its Western allies -- particularly the United States, which has relied mostly on Syrian Kurdish militia forces in its fight against IS jihadists.

Turkey has often accused Washington of supplying Kurdish forces with weapons.

## Terrorist Bases Targeted Again in Iraqi Kurdistan



The IRGC have hit terrorist bases in Iraq's Kurdish region for fomenting sedition in Iran.

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) targeted the headquarters of terrorist groups in Iraqi Kurdistan in the early hours of Monday with drones and missiles, the Fars news agency reported.

The IRGC have hit terrorist bases in Iraq's Kurdish region for fomenting sedition in Iran. The force struck military bases in Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, aiming to destroy sites that were partly

destroyed in previous attacks, Fars added.

The operation on Monday targeted the positions of the notorious so-called Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) and the Komala Party, Iran's al-Alam Arabic-language news network reported.

According to the network, one attack saw four missiles being fired against a PDKI position in the town of Koy Sanjaq in the re-

gion's Erbil Province. A separate attack featured kamikaze drones smashing into another site belonging to the group near the Baharka village elsewhere in the region.

Simultaneously, kamikaze drones struck positions associated with Komala across two locations near the city of Sulaymaniyah in the region.

Sabereen News, a Telegram news channel associated with Iraqi anti-terror forces, said the attacks set

off warning sirens at the United States' Consulate in Erbil.

Local Kurdish sources said that the attacks had killed as many as 26 members of the terrorist groups.

Since September 24, the IRGC has frequently been launching raids against the positions of the terrorists, who are holed up in Iraqi Kurdistan.

It has urged the central government in Iraq as well as the Kurdistan region to meet their commitments towards Iran and take necessary measures to make the common border between the countries secure.

Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Muhammad Kazem Al-e Sadeh on Monday said the central Iraqi government will take control of its borders. He said terrorist groups should be disarmed and returned to refugee camps.

The Iranian diplomat revealed that negotiations were underway between Iranian and Iraqi officials regarding the border issue.

During the meeting, Iran requested the Iraqi central government to take control of its borders from Kurdish forces, he said.

The Iraqi government agreed with Iran's request, Al-e Sadeh said, adding Baghdad had asked for time to implement the plan.

Iran, he said, had asked the Iraqi government to set a timetable for disarming terrorist groups.

## Quake Topples Buildings, Kills Scores in Indonesia

CIANJUR, Indonesia (AP) — A strong, shallow earthquake toppled buildings and collapsed walls on Indonesia's densely populated main island of Java on Monday, killing at least 162 and injuring hundreds as people rushed into the streets, some covered in blood and white debris.

Emergency workers treated the injured on stretchers and blankets outside main hospitals, on terraces and in parking lots. Many included children, some of whom were given oxygen masks, IV lines and were being resuscitated.

"I fainted. It was very strong," said Hasan, a construction worker who is being treated at the Cianjur Regional Hospital. "I saw my friends running to escape from the building. But I was too late to get out and was hit by the wall."

Residents, some crying with children in their arms, fled damaged homes after the magnitude 5.6 quake shook the Cianjur region in West Java province in late afternoon, at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles). It also caused panic in the greater Jakarta area, where high-rises swayed and some were evacuated.

Rescue teams and civilians in Cianjur were looking for others who may have been buried in the debris of collapsed brick houses. The quake was powerful enough to bring down walls, chunks of

concrete and roof tiles, some of which landed inside bedrooms.

Shopkeeper Dewi Risma was working with customers when the quake hit, and made a run for the exit.

"The vehicles on the road stopped because the quake was very strong," she said. "I felt it shook three times, but the first one was the strongest one for around 10 seconds. The roof of the shop next to the store I work in had collapsed, and people said two had been hit."

Herman Suherman, the head of Cianjur regency, said the death toll reached 62 as of Monday evening. Around 700 were injured, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency chief Suharyanto said.

Several landslides were reported around Cianjur. Among the dozens of buildings that were damaged was an Islamic boarding school, a hospital and other public facilities, the agency said.

Information was still being collected about the extent of casualties and damage.

Most of the victims and survivors were taken to the government hospital in Cianjur, where emergency tents were erected and workers treated the injured.

Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency recorded at least 25 aftershocks.

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## Ukraine Readies for Its Worst Winter

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — When the power is out, as it so often is, the high-rise apartment overlooking Ukraine's war-torn capital feels like a deathtrap. No lights, no water, no way to cook food. And the risk of not being able to escape from the 21st floor in time should a Russian missile strike. Even when electricity comes back, it's never on for long.

"Russian strikes are plunging Ukraine into the Stone Age," says Anastasia Pyrozhenko. In a recent 24-hour spell, her 26-story high-rise only had power for half an hour. She says the "military living conditions" have driven her and her husband from their apartment.

"Our building is the highest in the area and is a great target for Russian missiles, so we left our apartment for our parents' place and are preparing for the worst winter of our lives," said the 25-year-old.

The situation in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and other major cities has deteriorated drastically following the largest missile attack on the country's power grid on Tuesday. Ukrainian state-owned grid operator Ukrenergo reported that 40% of Ukrainians were experiencing difficulties, due to damage to at least 15 major energy hubs across the country.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, too, stressed the need to be ready and resilient in the face of a potential blackout: "Worst case scenario. Actually, I don't like to talk about that,

but I have to be prepared if we (do not) have electricity, blackout, no water, no heating, no services and no communication," Klitschko told the AP.

Ukrenergo said in a statement that "thousands of kilometers of key high-voltage lines are not working," affecting the entire country.

It published a picture of a transformer station that was destroyed by a Russian missile, leaving around 400,000 people without power. According to the report, "there are dozens of such transformers in the power system now. This equipment cannot be replaced quickly."

President Volodymyr Zelensky said after last week's strikes that more than 10 million Ukrainians were left without electricity; by Sunday, he said some areas had seen improvements.

"The restoration of networks and technical supply capabilities, the de-mining of power transmission lines, repairs — everything goes on round the clock," Zelensky said in his nightly address.

Blackouts were scheduled Sunday night in 15 regions and the city of Kyiv, he said. Ukrenergo said there would be scheduled outages in every region on Monday.

A sharp cold snap and the first snow have significantly complicated the situation in Kyiv, where temperatures are often below

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