



President
Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN's
Speech

Speech on the occasion of
the 97th Anniversary of
the Foundation of
The National Intelligence Organization

Ankara, January 10, 2024



President
Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN's
Speech

Speech on The Occasion of
the 97th Anniversary of
the Foundation of
The National Intelligence Organization

Esteemed Members of the National Intelligence Organization,

Distinguished guests,

I greet you with my heartfelt feelings and highest regards.

I am very pleased to be with the distinguished members of the National Intelligence Organization today.

We gathered here four years ago on the occasion of the inauguration of the new MİT Campus “KALE”, the Fortress.

I wish, once again, that the KALE Campus, which not only shows the expanding vision of our organization but also adds more to its power, will bring good luck and success.

We have just opened the MİT museum which sheds light on the glorious history of our Agency.

I wholeheartedly congratulate everyone who contributed to the establishment of our museum, which was designed upon the concepts of “Homeland, Tradition and Future”.

We are proud to be able to celebrate the 97th anniversary of the foundation of the National Intelligence Organization.

I whole-heartedly congratulate the 97th anniversary of the Agency’s foundation.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who have contributed to the Organization from its establishment until today, to all members of the Organization and to all unnamed heroes.

I would like to pray for the souls of all our martyrs who passed away in line of duty and I also wish health and well-being to the members who have been honored as veterans.

May God beatify the souls of our martyrs in Heaven.

I would like to thank all distinguished members of our Organization who are serving in all four corners of the world as well as in 81 provinces of our country.

I would like to begin my remarks by making a point with all my sincerity.

With the appreciation of our glorious nation, we have been serving Türkiye since 2002.

I have always worked closely with you during my 21-year tenure as Prime Minister and President.

In the past 21 years, we have lived through some really critical days which were a matter of life and death.

We have overcome many adversities, sustained many attacks, overcome many difficulties and obstacles.

In all these times, I have personally witnessed not only the efforts, courage and patriotism of our MİT members, but also their high sense of duty, intellectual capacity and analytical skills.

We worked shoulder to shoulder together with many of our brothers and sisters who would gladly give up their lives for their state without a second thought.

Therefore, I personally know very well how devoted MİT's secret heroes are in their work, sometimes sacrificing their families, sometimes their loved ones and sometimes their health.

May our Lord protect each and every single one of you.



Dear Friends,

Türkiye is located in a region that is at the center of global power struggle economically, politically and militarily.

Most of the crises that are deeply troubling the humanity are taking place in Türkiye's immediate vicinity.

While we are surrounded by a circle of fire, we are endeavoring both to develop our country and to ensure the security of our state at the same time.

Amid increasing uncertainty, our country is making a distinguished name for itself with its economic, military, diplomatic and intelligence achievements.

Day by day, Türkiye is further strengthening its position as an "influential power" as a playmaker on the global chessboard, and currently this fact has been accepted by almost everyone.

Our ambition for a strong Türkiye at the table and on the field is now becoming a reality with all its aspects, by the grace of God.

It is not just us who is making this point...

From Europe to Asia, from Africa to America, many of our counterparts in different continents state this fact.

In the recent period many reports, articles and books have been published regarding the influence of our country in global politics, some due to animosity, some due to admiration and some due to pure envy.

Those who observe the steps taken by our country and those who compare the Türkiye before 2002 and the present day Türkiye can easily see the difference.

This is the picture before us:

Contrary to the claims of some, there has not been an axis shift in our country, on the contrary, after a long search, our country has found its true axis.

The name of this axis is “the Axis of Türkiye”.

We do not act concerning about “what others would say”, as was the case in the past.

Every decision we take in domestic and foreign politics, every policy we implement is completely based on the concept of the Axis of Türkiye.

Whatever the interests of our nation require, whatever Türkiye needs, we seek to do it regardless of who says what.

“With the right steps at the right time”, we courageously defend the interests of our nation both in diplomacy and in the field of military.

Our cross-border operations in the northern part of Syria are clear examples of this.

Our ongoing “claw” operations in the north of Iraq are examples of this.

Liberating Karabakh together with our Azerbaijani brothers after almost 30 years of occupation is one example of that.

Our support to the legitimate government of Libya, with which we have ancient ties, is one of them.

Yet another example is the strong will we have demonstrated to protect our blue homeland from the Aegean to the Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean.

One can mention more and more examples in this regard.

As no success is coincidental, none of our country’s gains in different fields have been attained by chance.

In all these successes, there lie the efforts, hard work, determination and devotion of our Military, Police, Foreign Ministry, other institutions and the National Intelligence Organization, in particular.

Thanks to this cooperation and coordination amongst our security institutions, our nation has witnessed these historical achievements.

Through you, I congratulate all our institutions.

Dear Friends,

With the Russia-Ukraine war, the plates in the world have shifted.

In this new era, geopolitics has begun to stand out.

In this period, we also see radical changes in security concepts.

For instance, states that considered defense expenditures a waste and a burden on the public budget up until 5-10 years ago have entered into an arms race in the last couple of years.

Those who, until recently talked about narrowing the scope of duties of security units, today grant unlimited powers to security institutions.

The number of security and military cooperation agreements signed between countries is increasing day by day.

Türkiye, thankfully, is one of those countries that have foreseen these risks at an early stage and that have long started investing in its defense capabilities.

All those who criticized us in the past now admire our country.

Today, our achievements in defense industry, epitomized by UAVs and UCAVs, are followed with admiration all over the world.

The defense industry, which was once 80 percent dependent on imports, has today become the main export item with the highest added value for our country.

In 2023, we broke the record of our Republican history by exporting defense products, worth \$5.5 billion.

ANKA III, our unmanned combat aircraft, successfully completed its maiden flight.

The tests of KIZILELMA, which will have a multiplier effect in this field, are underway.

As the indigenous-national product range for our defense industry expands, the means, capacities and capabilities of our Military and Security Forces, as well as the National Intelligence Organization, grow stronger.

We can clearly see its positive results, especially in our fight against terrorist organizations.

The National Intelligence Organization is one of the leading institutions that use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles effectively.

With its widespread network of sources and state-of-the-art technology, the National Intelligence Organization does not let terrorists take a sigh of relief.

With our high-precision intelligence operations in Syria and Iraq, we have made the so-called leadership of the PKK unable to leave their lairs.

The National Intelligence Organization is not dealing with their low-ranking groups anymore, but is destroying their leadership.

This is how the fight is carried on.

Let me explain what it means.

We have taken a costly step, what do we have to do with this low profile group?

This is how we maintain this struggle and we shall carry on like this in the future.

For this reason, we have always said that we will enter their lairs.

And have we? Yes, we have and we shall.

Many terrorists, including the so-called leadership Council, executive council, military wing, intelligence, foreign relations and finance staff of the terrorist organization, have been neutralized and they no longer pose a threat to our country.

Almost every day, we receive reports of a murderer, a scoundrel neutralized hundreds of kilometers away from our borders.

We are making the terrorists pay for our Martyrs and we will keep on doing so.

In addition to our fight against the separatist terror organization, we also have struck heavy blows on DAESH.

The so-called leader of DAESH, al-Qurayshi, was neutralized in his lair in Syria by MİT.

Let me be crystal clear:

The Republic of Türkiye will not let anyone get away with treason and terrorism, though this may be delayed sometimes.

From DAESH to FETÖ, from PKK to DHKP-C, we will not allow any illegal organization, which is targeting our nation, to survive.

Where ever they are, in or out of Türkiye, where ever they run, our state will always be breathing down the necks of terrorists.

In particular, we are determined to pursue the FETÖ traitors who killed 253 citizens of our country, on the night of July 15.

I want everyone to know that there is absolutely no place for terror and terrorists in the Century of Türkiye.

Hopefully, we will achieve this with your support and determination.



Distinguished Friends,

One side of intelligence is receiving reports and collecting information, while the other is analysis and evaluation.

Processing raw information with care and transforming it into a parameter that decision makers can make use of is as important as the other duties of the Organization.

The information produced in the fields of counter-terrorism, foreign intelligence, counter-intelligence, technical and cyber intelligence plays a critical role in preventing and managing crises while strengthening our decision-making mechanism.

This process also shows the quality, caliber and capabilities of the human resources which is the most important element of the Organization.

The Government has taken many steps towards reinforcing the human resources of the Organization for the last 21 years, particularly since 2010.

The recruitment of non-military staff in the Organization, which first started during the tenure of late President Turgut Özal, has gained even more momentum during our term.

After the recruitment of non-military staff, the Organization began to perform its primary duties more effectively and successfully.

Undoubtedly, the correct and accurate perception of internal and external threats has played a very critical role in this.

The periods of military influence have damaged not only our democracy and economy but also our institutions that form the backbone of our state.

We know very well what the Organization dealt with during these periods and how it spent its time and energy instead of concentrating on its main areas of responsibility.

Hopefully, we shall never let such loss of energy, time and focus happen again.

Today the threat priorities of the Organization are perfectly compatible with the realities of our country and the world.

The human resources of the Organization has become able to meet the requirements of its scope, vision and its fields of interest.

In the coming period, we will strengthen the personnel capacity of the MiT even further, reflecting our vision of the Century of Türkiye.

I would especially like to remind you that...

Amid increasing asymmetric threats, it is of course unthinkable for Türkiye's security concept to remain the same.

We are renewing and updating our country's national security concerns and revising the threat ranking according to the changing conditions.

In addition to terrorism and foreign espionage activities, new threats such as irregular migration, radicalization, organized crime, xenophobia and Islamophobia have recently entered the radar of our institution.

We will never tolerate the fifth column elements who try to disrupt the unity and solidarity of our nation by hiding behind different masks.

Until today, we have not allowed the fire of the conflicts in our environment, from Syria to Iraq and to Ukraine, to spread to our country.

From the Gezi events to the October 6-8 incident, together we have fended off many attacks targeting our existence.

From now on, we will never tolerate operations based on sects, origins and beliefs.

Also, we need to be very vigilant against social media channels, which have become the hotbed of discord and hatred of our age.

At a time of escalating tensions in our region, we can never just stand and watch these channels being used as a center for psychological operations against our country.

We are a country that has paid the price of such provocations in the past.

We cannot let the same pain be inflicted on our nation again.

Dear friends,

We are aware that Türkiye's determined and strong stance in regional crises, especially the massacres in Gaza, concerns some people and foils their plans.

The recent increase in espionage activities against our country is just one of the reflections of this concern.

In the face of these, of course, we do not stand idle.

The National Intelligence Organization, with its operations that makes us proud, shows the whole world that the actual situation is different.

By uncovering Israel's espionage network in our country, our Organization has given a clear answer to those who threaten us.

This seriously surprised Israel. 'What happened, how did you round them up, caught them' etc.

Just wait; this is just the first step.

You will get to know Türkiye, you have not so far, but now you must.

We also appreciate the intelligence diplomacy carried out by MİT behind the scenes in a wide range of areas to reduce tensions in our region.

In the field of Foreign Intelligence, the MİT is making successful efforts ranging from contributing to other countries' fight against terrorism to hostage rescue, mediation and prisoner exchange.

We proudly follow MİT's accomplishments in preventing cyber-attacks against state officials and critical institutions.

I would like to draw special attention to the following point.

With the widespread usage of smartphones, the use of foreign messaging applications among our civil servants has also increased.

Unfortunately, a large amount of information, documents and notes belonging to our official institutions are shared through these applications.

It is clear that this situation creates a serious vulnerability in terms of information security.

On the use of these applications, European countries have recently imposed various restrictions to the public officials holding certain ranks and positions.

I believe that it is time our state took action on this matter, too.

Encouraging the use of applications developed by Turkish companies instead of foreign applications can be considered as an alternative in this process.

It would be most beneficial if MiT provides guidance to other institutions on strengthening our state's information security.

We will be closely following up on these efforts.

I believe that the National Intelligence Organization, which resembles an ancient tree with its 97-year history, will make us proud in every field.

In this process, we will continue to be with you and provide you with every support.

May Gold help you.

I once again commemorate with gratitude all directors who have contributed to the current success of the National Intelligence Organization.

I would like to thank Mr. İbrahim KALIN, with whom I have worked for many years, and his team. I also wish success once again to all members of the Organization and to Mr. Hakan FİDAN in his new duties.

Taking this opportunity, I honor and once again commemorate with mercy and gratitude our martyrs who passed away for our Homeland, the Quran and the flag of our country.

Congratulating the 97th anniversary of the Organization, I greet you with my warmest regards and kindest respect.