

**Head of Communications  
Duran's Message for the New Year**



In a message marking the arrival of 2026, Presidency's Head of Communications Prof. Burhanettin Duran outlined a vision of continued growth and global influence for Türkiye. Wishing the nation health and peace, Prof. Duran highlighted the significant strides made under the leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Prof. Duran announced that Türkiye is set to host major global gatherings, including the NATO Leaders' Summit, the Summit of the Organisation of Turkic States, and COP31, which will cement the country's active role on the international stage. Prof. Duran affirmed the Directorate's dedication to fighting disinformation and building global bridges of friendship, ensuring that Türkiye's voice is heard accurately across the world.

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**Murdering the Truth:  
Israel's Campaign Against Journalism**

The Directorate of Communications has published *Murdering the Truth: Israel's Campaign Against Journalism*, a book documenting the systematic targeting of journalists in Gaza within a humanitarian and historical framework. Available in Turkish, English, and Arabic, the publication draws on extensive documentation and testimonies to record attacks on media professionals and communication infrastructure, particularly since October 7, 2023.



**Directorate of Communications Unites Turkic World Against Disinformation**

Turkic States Forum on Combating Disinformation brought senior officials and communication experts from the member and observer states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) together in Ankara. The forum addressed joint strategies to combat disinformation and cooperation opportunities among member states.

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**Panel on Peace Efforts in Sudan**

The Presidency's Directorate of Communications held a panel titled "Ongoing Conflict in the Heart of Africa: The Quest for Peace in Sudan" on December 4, 2025. Hosted at the Directorate's Conference Hall, the panel brought together diplomats and academics to discuss the Sudan conflict and pathways toward peace.

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**Disaster Journalism Training Panel Tackles Crisis Reporting Challenges**

Convening a diverse group of experts and officials, Disaster Journalism Training Panel addressed the critical challenges of crisis reporting, with a specific focus on accuracy, ethical standards, and technological trends. In his opening speech, Head of Communications Prof. Duran advocated for a 'human-centred and justice-oriented' media system.

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## President Erdoğan Urges World to Repay Debt to Palestine

Addressing the International Forum on Peace and Trust held in Turkmenistan, President Erdoğan urged the world to repay its debt to the Palestinian people, stating that the international system has effectively collapsed in the face of the tragedy in Gaza. President Erdoğan also called on the global community to recognize the suffering of Palestinians and support an independent state within the 1967 borders to prevent the conflict from spreading further.

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## President Erdoğan Meets Putin, Japarov and Sharif

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation; Sadyr Japarov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic; and Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the margins of the International Forum on Peace and Trust held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

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## President Erdoğan Meets Sudan Sovereignty Council Chairman al-Burhan

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with Abdel Fattah al-Burhan at the Presidential Complex to discuss Türkiye–Sudan relations and regional developments. President Erdoğan reaffirmed Türkiye's support for peace, a ceasefire, and Sudan's territorial integrity, and underlined Türkiye's continued humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people amid the ongoing crisis.

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## First Lady Erdoğan Highlights That Defending Palestine Means Defending Humanity



Speaking at the opening of "The Remnants" (Kalanlar) Palestine Exhibition in Istanbul, First Lady Emine Erdoğan declared that Türkiye shares the Palestinian people's unshakeable belief that Gaza will eventually rise from the ashes. Describing the ongoing situation in the 365-square-kilometer enclave as history's most brutal and systematic genocide she highlighted the extraordinary resilience of the two million people struggling to survive in unimaginable conditions.

First Lady Erdoğan also urged the global community to tell the stories of those who remain, emphasizing that 'defending Palestine means defending not only the Palestinians but all of humanity and right to remain human.'

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## First Lady Emine Erdoğan Delivers Opening Remarks at “Women Witnesses to Genocide: Media and Resistance in Gaza” Panel

Organized by the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications, the panel titled “Women Witnesses to Genocide: Media and Resistance in Gaza” was held in Ankara. Hosted by the Directorate of Communications, the panel was attended by First Lady Emine Erdoğan, Head of Communications Prof. Duran, Minister of Family and Social Services Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş, and Anadolu Agency (AA) Chairman of the Board and Director General Serdar Karagöz.

### “Here in Türkiye, You Are Not a Visitor - You Are with Your Family”

In her opening remarks, First Lady Erdoğan welcomed Palestinian director Basel Adra and accompanying journalists, emphasizing that Türkiye stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people. First Lady Erdoğan commended the documentary *No Other Land* for courageously bearing witness to long-standing injustices and for conveying the Palestinian cause to the international community beyond its international awards. Mrs. Erdoğan also paid tribute to Palestinian journalist Salma Mukhaimer, recalling her life and tragic loss alongside her family, and invited the audience to honor the memory of all Palestinians who lost their lives through collective prayer, highlighting the role of women journalists in bearing witness to the human cost of the violence.



### “By distorting information, massacres can easily be legitimised”

First Lady Erdoğan emphasized that distortion and disinformation have been used to legitimise mass atrocities and manipulate global public opinion. Mrs. Erdoğan highlighted the selective practices of certain mainstream Western media outlets that silence Palestinian voices while amplifying false narratives. Noting that such information violence empties universal values such as democracy and human rights of their meaning, she warned that these principles risk becoming hollow slogans when denied to the marginalised.

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## Turkish TV Series Reach Global Audiences, Strengthening Türkiye's Cultural Diplomacy

Turkish TV series now reach nearly 1 billion viewers across about 170 countries, according to Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy. This global success has made the country a top TV production hub and turned series exports into a major soft-power tool, with revenues exceeding \$1 billion. Türkiye's new digital promotion strategy uses short-format mini-series to market tourism as an emotional, lifestyle experience rather than just destinations, showcasing culture and cities to international audiences.

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## Istanbul's Airports Set New Passenger Records in 2025

Turkey's major air hubs, IGA Istanbul Airport and Sabiha Gökçen Airport, recorded historic passenger numbers in 2025, serving a combined total of 132 million travellers, the State Airports Authority reported. The growth reflects Turkey's rising role as a global connectivity and tourism hub, with nearly half of passengers on international flights. Istanbul's airports now connect to over 330 destinations worldwide, bolstering Turkey's tourism industry and enhancing its international accessibility just as global travel rebounds.

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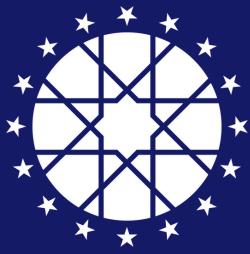
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PRESIDENCY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

**DIRECTORATE OF  
COMMUNICATIONS**