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Attack on US embassy in Ankara may target US Mideast policies: analysts

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A suicide bomb attack on the US Embassy in Ankara last week may target US Mideast policies, especially concerning the Syrian crisis, Turkish analysts said.

After the attack, the leftist Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) claimed responsibility in a statement posted online, citing US policies towards Syria, Iraq, Libya and Egypt as the reason.

This raised speculations that the terrorist organization might be contracted to do the job along Russian-Iranian-Syrian axis, said Gultekin Avci, former prosecutor and prominent writer at a Turkish daily.

Since Turkish police conducted sweeping operations against the DHKP/C and arrested 55 suspected members of the group last month, it seems odd that the DHKP/C should have targeted the US embassy, instead of Turkish security forces, as retaliation, Avci noted.

"The fact that the organization has turned its attention to the US, rather than Turkish police officers, indicates this was done not at the initiative of the organization," Avci said, suggesting that the supporters of the Syrian regime may have played a role in the bombing.

From the documents seized from various suspects, Turkish security forces found out the DHKP/C planned to assassinate politicians, judges, prosecutors and police officers.

Local media reported that Sanli was among 15 suicide bombers on the wanted list, who are believed to have been trained by terrorist organizations or sponsors in Greece, Germany, Syria and Belgium. Sanli, for example, lived in Germany before illegally entering Turkey to stage the attack.

Deniz Zeyrek, Turkish analyst, said that DHKP/C has been supporting Baathist regime in Damascus. "It is known that the organization uses a refugee camp near Damascus as a base, and recent intelligence reports indicate that Assad gives logistical and financial support to the DHKP/C," he said.

The terrorist group may have targeted the US because of Washington's Syrian policy, according to Zeyrek.

Idris Gursoy, another Turkish expert, told Xinhua that the DHKP/ C and other organizations associated with the group have been trying to stir up disturbances in border provinces for some time.

"They play on the sensitivities of sectarian divisions in places close to the border areas with Syria by spreading false rumors and holding pro-Assad rallies," he said.

Analysts believed, however, that the attack on US embassy would not change Turkey's or US policy towards Syria, saying that it may actually strengthen the resolve of both Ankara and Washington to push Assad from the power soon.

"As the Syrian crisis lingers on longer than expected, more provocations and attacks against Turkish and US interests may happen. Hence, the crisis in Syria must be solved and the transition should take place sooner than later to protect Turkish and US interests," said Gursoy.