

Fifty US, French, British Spies in Turkey “Working Very Closely on Syria Issue”

By [Global Research News](#)

Global Research, September 21, 2012

[Hurriyet Daily News](#)

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

There are nearly 50 high-ranking intelligence agents on Turkey’s Syria border, including agents from the United States, France, Germany, [Britain](#) and “perhaps Greece,” former [CIA](#) agent Philip Giraldi told Tolga Tanış of daily Hürriyet in an interview.

The former agent said there would be numerous spies working under the high-ranking spies and “many” informants working under them.

Giraldi said he thought there were 15-20 high-ranking [CIA](#) agents in [Turkey](#) working on the Syrian conflict alone.

“They would be paramilitary agents,” Giraldi said. “They would be based at the consulate in Adana or the Incirlik Air Base, but could operate in the field as well,” Giraldi said, adding that the agents would not cross into Syria but would direct intelligence operations from within [Turkey](#) in collaboration with Turkey’s National Intelligence Agency (MIT).

“The [CIA](#) probably has only 10 agents who are fluent in Arabic and maybe five who can speak Turkish fluently. For this reason, they need to rely on MIT agents when dealing with Syrian rebels,” Giraldi said.

The [CIA](#) lacks personnel who are fluent in Middle Eastern languages because their tours of duty only last two or three years before they are transferred elsewhere. “The agents do not have enough time to specialize in that language or culture,” he said, but added that the Russians were much better trained language-wise. “A [Russian](#) agent receives language courses for two years before arriving in Turkey, and once here, they can stay on duty for up to 10 years.”

Turkish and [American](#) intelligence agencies were working “very closely” on the Syrian issue, Giraldi said, adding that the U.S. provided [Turkey](#) with photographs including satellite pictures and sensitive technical information it normally would not share with anyone. A Turkish intelligence officer “always” accompanies [CIA](#) agents in their dealings with officials from the Free Syrian Army, according to Giraldi. “This is not a rule, but that is how things work.”

Giraldi guessed there would be high-ranking agents from France, Germany, [Britain](#) and “possibly Greece” near the Turkish-Syrian border, and would operate from the Incirlik Air Base, since it was a [NATO](#) base. Saudi Arabia and Qatar, meanwhile, worked in cooperation with the Turkish Foreign Ministry, he added.

‘Everyone is an amateur next to MiT’

Turkish intelligence agents were better than any other agent, and anyone would be considered “an amateur” when it came to regional issues of the Middle East. “A [CIA](#) agent, on the other hand, would be far more advanced in technical issues, such as phone tapping, or following people on the ground via satellite imagery.”

Giraldi said the MiT coordinated all intelligence gathering activities related to Syria and worked in coordination with German, French, British and [American](#) intelligence services. He said each and every piece of information gathered by the agencies would be shared by all. “You cannot keep any information only to yourself in this environment.”

Intelligence agencies do not take initiatives on their own and have to take the MiT as reference, which is currently acting as a leader, Giraldi said.

“If [Turkey](#) was not in the picture, the operations would have been dominated by the CIA,” he said.

Giraldi was the head of the [CIA](#) team in [Istanbul](#) between 1986 and 1989 during his intelligence career of 18 years.

The original source of this article is [Hurriyet Daily News](#)

Copyright © [Global Research News](#), [Hurriyet Daily News](#), 2012

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research News](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca