
ANGER BETWEEN TURKEY AND IRAQ AHEAD OF BATTLE FOR MOSUL

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Just weeks ahead of an expected push led-by Iraqi troops to retake the ISIL-held city of Mosul and tensions have risen between Turkey and Iraq.

Ankara wants in on the battle and refuses to leave a military base near Mosul where its soldiers have been training a multi-ethnic force for the fight.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi wants them to go but Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has reacted angrily.

Hes (Iraqs prime minister) is insulting me. Youre not even my interlocutor. Youre not at my level. You dont have the same value. You dont have the same quality. You screaming and shouting from Iraq is of no importance to us. You should know that well be going our own way (meaning well do what we want). Whos this? Iraqs prime minister. Iraqs prime minister. First of all, know your place.

Turkey sees the battle for Mosul as an extension of its fight against terrorism and fears that ousting Sunni- based ISIL will leave a vacuum which Kurdish forces could fill.

However the Shiite-led government of Baghdad is protective of its own sovereignty □ something which Washington has told Ankara it must respect.

Kaynak/Source: