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**'TURKEY'S OPERATIONS IN IRAQ CONTINUE WITH GREATER PACE'**

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Turkey's anti-terror operations against the PKK terror group in northern Iraq are underway with greater force and pace, the country's defense minister said on Tuesday.

Hulusi Akar briefed the lawmakers in the parliament in the wake of the terrorist group PKKs killing of 13 Turkish citizens over the weekend.

"Our anti-operations against PKK -- which is struggling to survive -- in northern Iraq continue uninterrupted with greater force and pace. The Turkish Armed Forces inflicted a heavy blow on the PKK in Gara [northern Iraq] in an area of 46.6 kilometers [46.6 miles] by 25 kilometers [15.5 miles] where terrorists used to feel safe," Akar said.

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Kaynak/Source: