



Turkey's Mobgate Reveals the Islamist Deep State

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Revelations on YouTube by Turkish mob boss and Erdoğan ally Sedat Peker are rattling the Turkish government. Peker's disclosures involve murder, rape, corruption, bribery, political assassination, drug smuggling, arms shipments to jihadists, and torture and violence committed on the government's behalf to silence the opposition. Through Peker's revelations, the Turkish people are witnessing the extent to which the Islamist "deep state" has exponentially flourished under Erdoğan's rule.

A powerful psychodrama is illustrating the kleptocratic face of political Islam for the Turkish people and the world.

The revelations of Turkey's most notorious mob boss, Sedat Peker, have made Ankara's open secrets even more open: bribery, murder, political assassination, corruption, rape, drug smuggling, arms shipments to jihadists in Syria, and torture and violence to silence the opposition.

Peker, a staunch supporter of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, whom he calls "brother Tayyip," began to reveal his secrets in early May when he launched a personal feud with Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu. Since then, he has uploaded 10 videos to YouTube, which have been collectively viewed more than 100 million times at last count.

Peker's videos have a *prima facie* credibility. He is a [convicted](#) crime boss who has been living abroad since 2019. He [claims](#) that Turkey offered Morocco a batch of Turkish-made Bayraktar TB-2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles either for half price or for free in exchange for his extradition. He praised the Moroccan ruler, King Muhammad VI, for honoring a principle passed down by his father, which is to never extradite anyone who defects to Morocco.

Peker left Morocco to seek refuge in the UAE, and in mid-June, Turkey formally [requested](#) his extradition from that country as well. As there is no extradition treaty between Ankara and Abu Dhabi, the UAE has not responded to the request. In addition, Turkey and the UAE have been at odds in the past over Erdoğan's rigid support for Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, Qatar, and Islamist warriors in Libya.

Peker's revelations are quite dark and scary even for a nation that is no stranger to the notion of the "deep state." Peker resembles [Salvatore "Totò" Riina](#), the *capo di tutti capi* of the Sicilian Cosa Nostra. Riina was arrested in Palermo in 1993 and has since published his memoirs.

Peker alleges that former PM Binali Yıldırım's son, Erkam Yıldırım, was directly involved in [drug trafficking](#) via merchant fleet sailing from Venezuela to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Mersin, and revealed dates when Yıldırım traveled to Venezuela. Yıldırım confirmed his travel but said he went there for charity purposes.

Peker further alleges that a woman who claimed to have been raped by the son of former Interior Minister Mehmet Ağar was later found dead, and that the current interior minister once warned a criminal of his impending arrest, allowing him to flee.

Peker also [revealed](#) that he once ordered his gang to raid Turkey's biggest newspaper, *Hürriyet*, at the government's request; that his gang members once beat up an opposition member of parliament for the same reason; that a member of parliament who had insulted Erdoğan was tortured by his men at a police station; and that his group transferred money to gangs in Germany to assault opposition members there. The mobster also revealed the names of businessmen, police chiefs, judges, bureaucrats, investors, and journalists he claims were involved in these dirty operations.

In a [video](#) posted on May 23, Peker said he tasked his brother, Atilla Peker, with killing Turkish Cypriot journalist Kutlu Adalı, a liberal, in 1996 upon a request from then-Interior Minister Ağar. Peker says his brother was unable to carry out the murder, though Adalı was indeed shot dead shortly afterward, in July 1996. Adalı's assassination remains unsolved.

In his videos, Peker challenges Erdoğan's government with the words "You will be defeated by a tripod and a camera," though he has avoided challenging the Turkish president directly. A [poll](#) by researcher Yöneylem Sosyal Araştırmalar Merkezi revealed on May 26 that 52.6% of Turks think Peker's revelations are true, with only 22.5% thinking the mob leader is slandering politicians for his own interests.

In November 2002, Erdoğan came to power mainly on his pledge to eradicate the “deep state” that had rattled the governments of the 1990s. Almost two decades later, the Turks are seeing that the “deep state” has exponentially flourished under Erdoğan’s Islamist government.

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