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Russia Replaces Israel as 'Biggest Threat' to Turkey – Poll

By The Moscow Times

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Russian Black Sea Fleet Intelligence vessel SSV-201 Priazovye crosses the Bosphorus on its way to the Mediterranean sea, in Istanbul.

Russia has replaced Israel as the country that "poses the biggest threat to Turkey," according to an opinion poll conducted by a Turkish University.

The findings follow a recent darkening of relations between Moscow and Ankara after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane on the Turkish-Syrian border in November 2015, leading to the deaths of two Russian serviceman.

President Vladimir Putin labeled the incident a "stab in the back" and ordered wide-ranging economic sanctions on Turkey. Russia has intervened in the Syrian civil war on the side of President Bashar Assad, whom Turkey opposes.

The annual Survey of Social-Political Trends in Turkey by Istanbul's Kadir Has University

polled 1,000 people across the county between Dec. 9 and 17. The university said the number of those who considered the United States, Syria and Israel to pose a threat to Turkey fell in 2015, though it did not give percentage figures. Israel has topped the list of threats to Turkey since 2011.

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