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Turkey's Erdogan Says Putin Is 'Occupier' in Syria

By The Moscow Times

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Turkish President Recep Erdogan has described Russian President Vladimir Putin as an "occupier" in Syria, the Bloomberg news agency reported Monday.

"What are you [Putin] doing in Syria? You're essentially an occupier," Erdogan said in comments published by the Turkish Hurriyet newspaper, Bloomberg reported.

Erdogan's comments came after the recent suspension of a UN-hosted peace conference on Syria in Geneva. The conference was adjourned due to the recent offensive of Syrian government forces against rebels near Aleppo.

Last week Erdogan proposed a meeting with Putin to discuss the latest developments in the relationship between the two countries, but Putin turned down the offer.

The Islamic State is a terrorist organization banned in Russia.

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