

Turkey's Erdogan Criticizes Biden Over 'Killer' Putin Remark

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Turkey's Erdogan and Putin normally share a close relationship but their bond has been strained over conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Syria and Libya. [Kremlin.ru](https://www.kremlin.ru)

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has criticized U.S. leader Joe Biden's remarks describing Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "killer," the state-owned Anadolu news agency [reported](#) Friday.

Biden ignited a diplomatic crisis with Moscow on Wednesday when he [answered](#) "I do" after being asked in an ABC News interview if he thinks Putin is a "killer," adding that the Russian leader would "pay a price" for election meddling.

Related article: [‘It Takes One to Know One,’ Putin Fires Back After Biden’s ‘Killer’ Remarks](#)

“Mr. Biden's comment about Putin does not suit a head of state,” Erdogan was quoted as saying after Friday prayers in Istanbul.

“For me, Mr. Putin has done what is necessary by giving a very, very smart, very classy response,” he added.

On Thursday, Putin mocked Biden’s comments by [saying](#) “it takes one to know one” and wishing the 78-year-old “good health.”

Biden has not minced words for Erdogan, [calling](#) him an “autocrat” in a 2019 interview and highlighting Turkey's deteriorating record on human rights. Turkish-U.S. relations are also hampered by Ankara's purchase of advanced S-400 air defense systems from Moscow, which Washington says threaten NATO defenses.

Erdogan and Putin normally share a close relationship but their bond has been strained over conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Syria and Libya.

Despite their opposing interests, Putin called the Turkish leader “a man of his word who does not wiggle his tail” at his annual [press conference](#) in December.

AFP contributed reporting.

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