

# افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نېاشد تن من مېباد      بدين بوم وېر زنده يک تن مېباد  
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهيم      از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهيم

[www.afgazad.com](http://www.afgazad.com)

[afgazad@gmail.com](mailto:afgazad@gmail.com)

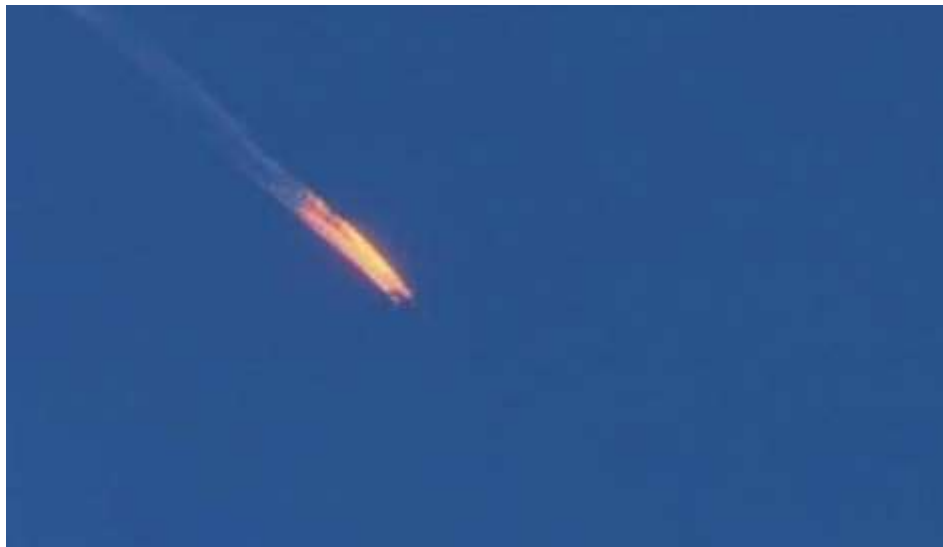
European Languages

زبان های اروپایی

[http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/middle-east/article46186315.html#emlnl=Morning\\_Newsletter](http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/middle-east/article46186315.html#emlnl=Morning_Newsletter)

## Turkey shoots down Russian fighter plane

11/24/2015



The Turkish military Tuesday announced it shot down a Russian military aircraft near the Syrian border after it ignored multiple warnings and entered Turkish airspace, a charge Moscow immediately denied.

According to social media reports, which include videos, an Ankara-aligned Syrian rebel group captured one of the two pilots bailing out of the plane, which was filmed crashing. The other pilot remains missing, but some footage released on local television and social media showed what appeared to be one of the pilots dead and his body being examined by Arabic speaking rebels.

There was no immediate comment from the United States. Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking in Sochi before a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah, denounced the downing as "a stab in the back carried out by the accomplices of terrorists."

In the remarks, carried by Russian news agency RT, Putin said the aircraft was "downed over the territory of Syria, using air-to-air missile from a Turkish F-16." He said it fell on Syrian territory four kilometers, over two miles, from the Turkish border.

Putin insisted the pilots were targeting "terrorists" in the northern areas around Latakia, specifically militants with Russian origins, and posed no threat to Turkey.

"We have always treated Turkey as a friendly state. I don't know who was interested in what happened today, certainly not us," Putin said. "And instead of immediately getting in contact with us, as far as we know, the Turkish side immediately turned to their partners from NATO to discuss this incident, as if we shot down their plane and not they ours."

The Russians have conducted more than 4,000 air strikes in the past two months in support of their ally, President Bashar Assad of Syria. In his comments, Putin accused Turkey, which has long sought Assad's ouster, of backing the Islamic State, and said that Turkey was protecting the Islamic State because of the group's "huge resources of hundreds of millions and billions of dollars coming from illicit oil sales."

The incident could not come at a worse time in terms of Turkish-Russian relations.

Initial Turkish media reports say that air force F-16s intercepted two Russian planes as they approached Turkish airspace along the border and that one ignored 10 verbal warnings to turn back before the decision to shoot the plane down was approved.

In a statement the Turkish military said, "On Nov. 24, 2015 around 09:20 a.m. in Hatay Yayladag region, a plane of unknown nationality violated Turkish air space, more than 10 times in five minutes and was repeatedly warned about the violation," it said. "The interception action was done in line with the engagement rules of Turkey at 09:24 by the two F-16s patrolling in the area."

Turkish officials told McClatchy they were prepared to provide NATO with coordinates; radar and radio traffic to prove the incident took place in Turkish airspace.

At the request of Turkey, the North Atlantic Council will hold an extraordinary meeting Tuesday for Turkey to inform allies about the downing of the plane, according to a NATO official who declined to be identified.

The incident could not come at a worse time in terms of Turkish-Russian relations, as Ankara has accused the large-scale Russian air campaign as supporting Assad against rebels aligned with Turkey and the West, while virtually ignoring the Islamic State, which is the focus of a broad U.S.-led coalition of air strikes and occasional special operations attacks.

According to the Russian defense ministry, they operate at least 32 fixed wing aircraft from a base in western Syria, while long range bombers and cruise missiles from outside the region have also participated in strikes. The use of the long-range bombers, which must cross Iranian and Iraqi air space to reach Syria, led to the closure this week of Iraqi airspace to commercial flights.