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Turkey, Syria Trade Shellings as Region Fears Wider War

By Jason Ditz

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An errant Syrian shell crossed the border into the Turkish town of Akcakale, causing minor damage to a local granary and leading to retaliatory [attacks](#) by the Turkish military, with no indication what their shells actually hit.



It is the fifth day of Turkish officials talking up the possibility of attacking Syria, and much of the region is fearing that the tensions could lead to a wider war, [potentially turning](#) Syria's Civil War into a region-wide conflict.

Today's shell was the [second](#) to hit Akcakale in five days, and the third to hit Turkey overall. The first hit killed five civilians but later strikes don't appear to have wounded anyone, while Turkey claims "several Syrian soldiers" have been slain in their attacks.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has insisted he does not want to see the situation escalate into a war, but parliament has already authorized an invasion of Syria and there seems to be interest in turning [Turkey's recent bellicosity](#) into full-scale actions.