

# Turkish military officers who stopped MIT trucks referred to court for arrest



32 out of the 34 high-ranking military members detained for stopping and raiding of trucks belonging to Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) were referred to court for arrest early on Thursday.

The military officers, who raided MIT trucks en route to Syria to carry supplies to Turkmen in January 2014, were detained on charges of spying, in an operation conducted on Sunday.

Sixteen of the 34 officers were reported to be tasked in the southern province of Adana where National Intelligence Organization (MIT) trucks were intercepted by security forces upon an order by a prosecutor who allegedly acted on a tip-off that the trucks were full of ammunition to be conveyed to a terrorist organization.

The operation into the MIT trucks is believed to be a plot by Gülenists to spark a crisis. As more details have been unveiled pertaining to the matter, the possibility that the operation was pre-planned and conducted by Gülenist police and prosecutors in a purported attempt to defame the government, which it considers as a foe, strengthened, prompting the prosecutor's office to investigate the incident.

The majority of the suspects in question had lawsuits filed against them on spying charges by the deputy public prosecutor's office, and following the operation the prosecutor who

investigated the incident sought 15 to 20 years in prison for the military staffers that were allegedly involved in stopping MIT trucks on January 19, 2014, for "obtaining confidential state information to be used for political and military spying" and life sentences for making them public. The indictment the prosecutor prepared was later submitted to the Adana 7th High Criminal Court where the trial is currently being heard.

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