

# Flashpoints in U.S.-Turkish relations

After being protected by Donald Trump, NATO ally Turkey's increasingly authoritarian President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan faces potential U.S. sanctions from Joe Biden's incoming administration



**1. RUSSIAN ARMS:** Turkey faces sanctions under **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** over Ankara's decision to buy Russian-made S-400 missile systems. **Trump avoided imposing sanctions under CAATSA**



**HALKBANK**

**2. GOLD-FOR-OIL:** Between 2012 and 2013 Turkey's state-owned **Halkbank** allegedly helped Iran evade U.S. sanctions by providing some **\$13 billion** worth of gold in exchange for Iranian natural gas and oil. Iran exchanged gold for foreign cash. **Scam allegedly carried out with help of several Erdoğan-government ministers**

**3. HUMAN RIGHTS:** Following July 2016 coup attempt, Erdoğan's government imprisons around 50,000 people. Prisoners include opposition politicians, journalists, academics and lawyers – targeted for alleged links to outlawed **Kurdistan Workers' Party** or U.S.-based Islamist cleric **Fethullah Gülen**



**4. SYRIA:** Erdoğan's Syrian jihadist proxies have launched three cross-border operations attacking Kurdish-led **Syrian Democratic Forces** – U.S. allies – since 2016

**5. Energy exploration:** Turkey and EU members Cyprus and Greece are locked in escalating tensions over Turkish oil and gas exploration in waters claimed as Cypriot and Greek exclusive economic zones

