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Middle East and North Africa Situation Report as of 04 October 2012

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04 October 2012

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Syria/Turkey: Ankara is reacting strongly to the Syrian shelling of Turkish border town Akcakale yesterday that killed five Turkish civilians and wounded at least nine others⟨ ⟩ the first such incident since the Syrian conflict began. The Turkish military returned fire on Syrian military targets, and ⟨ ⟩ several Syrian soldiers were killed. ⟨ ⟩ Turkey has resumed shelling this morning. Turkish officials consulted with NATO and the UN yesterday to gain Allied support and the government will seek approval from parliament at a special session this morning to conduct a cross-border incursion,

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Top Turkish Government leaders yesterday publicly said that Syria's cross-border shelling was an effort to draw Turkey into Syria and was a violation of international law,

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- ⟨ ⟩ Egypt ⟨ ⟩ publically condemned the attack and ⟨ ⟩ Egyptian Vice President al-Haddad publically said Egypt supports Turkey's response to the incident.

- ⟨ ⟩ Meanwhile, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gatilov warned NATO against using the incident as a pretext for expanding military involvement in Syria and against introducing initiatives such as humanitarian corridors or buffer zones, ⟨ ⟩

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(U) This report was prepared by the Office of Middle East and North Africa Analysis. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, Middle East Task Force, MENA ⟨ ⟩

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Al-Nusrah Front has claimed responsibility for three car bombs, three suicide vest attacks, and a number of mortar rounds launched around Saadalah al-Jabiri Square in Aleppo yesterday

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