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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RUSSIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN Turkish military targeted the plane in the volatile Hatay Province

24.11.15 (LONDON)- Turkey has reportedly shot down a Russian military aircraft on the country's southern border in Hatay province. Turkish F-16s shot down the SU 24 after warning the two pilots they were violating Turkish airspace. At least one of the pilots has been confirmed dead by Syrian rebels in Latakia province, where the jet crashed.

The crash occurred in the Turkomen Mountains in the Bayirbucak region of Latakia Province, which has been targeted by a Syrian government offensive backed by Hezbollah and Iranian soldiers under the cover of Russian airstrikes. Islamic State militants have not established a presence in the region. The local Turkomen fighters have close connections with Turkey.

Following an emergency meeting of NATO ambassadors in Brussels to address the incident, statements issued by the NATO Secretary General emphasize diplomacy and de-escalation to address the situation.

Moscow began launching airstrikes against the Syrian rebels in September of this year and has faced repeated warnings from Turkish authorities. A Russian drone was shot down after violating Turkish airspace last month. This is the first Russian aircraft to crash in Syria since the start of the airstrikes.



Turkey, a NATO member, has consistently resisted pressure to contribute to the international campaign against Islamic State militants, insisting that an international coalition must also target the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Russian airstrikes against the Syrian opposition aim to reinforce the Assad regime, setting the foreign policies of the two countries at odds.

#### About Frontier Horizons

Frontier Horizons is a global risk management and specialist security consultancy. Through our Global Operating Platform, we provide Global Intelligence, Physical Security, and Tracking services to plan, implement and deliver bespoke solutions for institutions and individual clients.

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