Trump, Erdogan Stress Commitment to Combating Terrorism

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met in Ankara on Tuesday and issued a joint statement on fighting terrorism.

Trump has so far praised Erdogan's efforts against Islamic State and called him a “great ally.” Erdogan also praised Trump's campaign promise to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

However, the joint statement did not address a key sticking point in their relationship: the U.S. military presence in Syria and the Kurdish forces there. Erdogan has long been concerned about the Kurds in Syria and has been pushing for their removal.

The joint statement also did not address concerns over Turkey's intervention in Syria, which has been met with criticism from the international community.

The joint statement was a rare display of cooperation between the two countries, which have been at odds over a range of issues, including Syria, North Korea, and Russia.

Joint White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement that the leaders had agreed to “work together” on a “number of issues” and that they had discussed the “positive steps” that the two had taken in the past.

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In an interview with CNN, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said that the two leaders had agreed to “work together” on a “number of issues” and that they had discussed the “positive steps” that the two had taken in the past.

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