Turkey has not “Closed Book” with EU: Erdogan

GENEVA - The Islamic State (IS or ISIL), militant groups defending the Islamic Caliphate of Mosul are committing serious human rights violations, according to a report published in Geneva.

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) voted in favor of a resolution that calls for an immediate United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution to ensure the protection of civilians.

"We continue to receive reports of serious breaches of international humanitarian law by ISIL and other terrorist groups," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein in a statement.

The resolutions also call for the establishment of an international criminal court to prosecute those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations.

The resolution was adopted by a margin of 102 to 12, with 38 abstentions.

Syrian Troops Make Major Breakthrough in Aleppo

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday that his government is prepared to freeze talks over a possible customs union with the EU.

“Over the past two weeks, we have united the Turkish people behind the slogan ‘We have not yet closed book with the EU,’” Erdogan said at a meeting in Istanbul.

"But also the future is not yet decided. We are thinking of the future," he added.

"We are thinking of the future and making plans," he said.

The president’s statement comes after the EU imposed new sanctions against Turkey last week in the Central African Republic.

"Even if we lose a war, we win," said Erdogan.

In response, the EU imposed a new package of sanctions against Turkey, including a visa ban on some top officials and a freeze on trade with the country.

"We continue to expect that the EU will come to see the importance of our contribution to the security of Europe," said Erdogan.

"We are prepared to continue our cooperation with the EU, but only if the EU is ready to recognize the importance of our contributions," he added.

Erdogan also called for a referendum on the customs union question, which he said should be held in the next few months.

"We are prepared to hold a referendum on the customs union question, but only if the EU is ready to recognize the importance of our contributions," he said.

Speaking to voters, what was becoming clear was that while some people strongly support the customs union, others feel very strongly about it.

"We are prepared to hold a referendum on the customs union question, but only if the EU is ready to recognize the importance of our contributions," he said.

The government has faced criticism from some European countries for its human rights record.

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