

## **Erdogan regime boosts funding for intelligence services, controversial Directorate of Religious Affairs**



**Days before a closely watched EU summit, where the prospect of sanctions against Turkey is on the horizon, the Islamist Erdogan regime continues to boost and finance the remaking of modern Turkey into a Muslim-dominated state and society. Specifically, Turkish vice-president Fuat Oktay this week announced that the biggest increases in the country's budget for 2021 will be funneled into its intelligence agency and the controversial Directorate of Religious Affairs, known as Diyanet.**

Oktay, one of Turkish strongman Recep Tayyip Erdogan's most trusted associates, said the state budget will increase by more than 28 percent.

Diyanet is the state-run institution that provides Muslim religious instruction in schools. A decision by that body, in fact, excludes the instruction of the Quran from pandemic-related restrictions.