

Tuesday, 14 May 2013

Turkey bombers must face justice, warns U.N. Security Council



The U.N. Security Council said Monday that the perpetrators of the “reprehensible” bomb attacks on Turkey’s border with Syria must be brought to justice. The 15-nation council “condemned in the strongest terms the deadly attacks” in the Turkish town of Reyhanli on Saturday that left at least 48 dead and injured scores, AFP news agency reported. A council statement “underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice,” and urged all states to cooperate with the Turkish investigation. The Turkish government has said President Bashar al-Assad’s government is linked to the blasts. Damascus has denied the charge. The council expressed “deep sympathy and sincere condolences” to the victims of the bomb attacks and their families. Syria’s information minister on Monday blamed Turkey’s government for the deadly car bombings and branded Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan a “murderer,” state-run Russian TV company RT reported.

“All responsibility for what has happened lies with the Turkish government and Erdogan personally,” RT quoted Omran Zubi as saying in an interview with its Arabic-language channel.

“I demand his resignation as a murderer and an executioner. He has no right to build a political career on the blood of the Turkish and Syrian people,” RT quoted Zubi as saying.

Relations between the two countries have been strained ever since Turkey fell out with Assad over his violent response to what began as a peaceful protest movement and then became an armed rebellion.

Turkey now harbors Syrian rebel forces and refugees on its territory, and has called for Assad’s departure.