

## [Turkish foreign minister to visit US as Ankara steps up diplomatic efforts](#)

Thu, 2023-01-05 22:36

ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has announced that he will visit the US this month, as Ankara starts the new year with a diplomatic push in Washington.

He will arrive on Jan. 17 and, among other engagements, meet US Secretary of State Antony Blinken the following day. He might also travel to Houston to open Turkiye's new consulate there.

It will be the first official visit to the US by a senior member of the Turkish government since President Joe Biden took office two years ago.



Main category:  
[Middle-East](#)

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## [Tunisian minister jailed over toxic waste scandal](#)

Thu, 2023-01-05 22:12

ROME: Mustapha Aroui, a former Tunisian environment and local affairs

minister, has been sentenced to three years in prison for his role in the illegal shipping of household waste from Italy to Tunisia.

The Criminal Chamber of the Tunis Court of First Instance sentenced three other defendants to the same term and also jailed a ministry official for 10 years.



Main category:

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## [Dismay as dozens of Christian graves in Jerusalem vandalized](#)

Wed, 2023-01-04 23:45

JERUSALEM: A Jerusalem bishop said on Wednesday he was “dismayed” by the desecration of dozens of Christian graves on the edge of the Old City, as police probed the vandalism.

Stone graves lay in pieces with crosses toppled at the Protestant cemetery on Mount Zion, where Christians believe Jesus’s Last Supper took place.

“We discovered that more than 30 tombstones and crosses were smashed to pieces,” Hosam Naoum, an Anglican bishop, told journalists at the cemetery.



Main category:  
[Middle-East](#)

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## [Iraqi court summons justice minister amid graft probe](#)

Wed, 2023-01-04 23:42

BAGHDAD: Iraq's anti-corruption agency said on Wednesday the justice minister had been given a court summons after he was accused of blocking a graft probe by refusing to hand over documents.

A probe began last month into "suspicions of corruption" in the delivery of prison meals, with "poor quality" and limited food provided compared to the payments made.

On Tuesday, Judge Haider Hanoun, who heads the government's anti-corruption agency, accused Minister of Justice Khaled Shawani of "using his power to hinder the work" of investigators.



Main category:  
[Middle-East](#)

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## [Iran frees actor Taraneh Alidoosti after three weeks in custody](#)

Wed, 2023-01-04 23:32

PARIS: Iranian authorities on Wednesday released on bail star actor Taraneh Alidoosti after holding her for almost three weeks over her support for the protest movement, her lawyer said.

Alidoosti is one of Iranian cinema's most acclaimed stars, winning international renown for performances in award-winning films by director Asghar Farhadi, including the Oscar-winning 2016 movie "The Salesman."