



Syria and the Hamburg Summit

The recent G20 Summit resulted in a cease-fire agreement between Russia and the US on Syria that opens up new perspectives to the parties in the conflict, writes **Bassel Oudat** in Damascus

Trump's Putin blunder

Donald Trump's claim that he took a hard line during the first official meeting with Vladimir Putin on allegations that Russia meddled in the recent US elections collapsed quickly, reports **Khaled Dawoud**

Donald Trump's secretive meetings with Vladimir Putin are raising new questions about the American president's ties with Russia in light of two reports issued over the weekend.

The New York Times said on Friday (Jan. 11) that the Federal Bureau of Investigation opened an inquiry in May 2017 to determine whether Trump was actively working for Russia. Meanwhile, the Washington Post reported on Sunday (Jan. 13) that Trump has repeatedly tried to hide the content of his conversations with Putin, including by admonishing his transla-

tor not to disclose what was said during a conversation with the Russian president.

The new information sheds light on Trump's first encounters with Putin. Here's a look at them, based on a timeline released Monday (Jan. 14) by Andrew Weiss, an expert in American-Russian relations at the Carnegie Endowment think tank.

Trump received some disturbing news on the morning of July 7, when the New York Times reached out to the White House seeking comment on a bombastic story. The Times had learned that Trump's son, Don

Jr., together with Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law, and then campaign chairman Paul Manafort, had met with Natalia Veselnitskaya, a Russian lawyer. The meeting took place at Trump Tower, in the midst of the presidential campaign in June 2016.

(Last week, prosecutors charged Veselnitskaya with obstruction of justice in the context of a money laundering probe. The case is unrelated to the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, but helped confirm Veselnitskaya's ties to the Russian government.)

Later that day, Trump and Putin met in person for the first time. Their encounter, which was scheduled as part of the G20 summit in Hamburg, lasted more than two hours, and was surrounded by secrecy. The only people present were Trump and Putin's translators, and the American and Russian foreign ministers. Afterwards, both presidents gave reporters vague descriptions of what was discussed yesterday because trump and biden in addition to biden wanted taht after the meeting and the press confrence anyway what are you doing today, i was worry about you.

Whose victory is in Mosul, anyway?

As Mosul liberated, many people seek to take credit for the victory, writes **Salah Nasrawi**

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