

Erdo?an presents Ortaköy Mosque project to Cuban authorities

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President Recep Tayyip Erdo?an announced that Turkey is ready to undertake the construction of a mosque in Cuba during his visit to the country on Wednesday.

The Turkish president visited important monuments and historical landmarks in Havana, the capital of Cuba and laid a wreath at the monument of Cuban national hero Jose Marti. He answered questions from the press shortly after the official ceremony, where the national anthems of both countries were played.

In response to a question about the construction of a mosque similar to the one in Ortaköy district of Istanbul by Turkey in the Cuban capital, Erdo?an stated that the Cuban administration has already signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia to build the mosque.

"Our architecture is very distinct from that of Saudi Arabian architecture" Erdo?an said, adding that he has spoken with officials and presented them detailed information about the Ortaköy Mosque project prepared by Turkey.

Erdo?an said that they have told Cuban authorities that Turkey wants to build the mosque independently by itself, and have suggested that they could build a copy of the Ortaköy Mosque in a different Cuban city.

"The Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (T?KA) will be closely following the issue" Erdo?an said, while he noted that T?KA has taken three important steps in Cuba and Cuban authorities had a favorable reaction to the issue.

The Turkish president conducted bilateral cooperation talks with his Cuban counterpart on Wednesday. Cuba was the second stop of Erdo?an's Latin America visit after Colombia. The president's Latin America visit is the second senior level delegation visit since 1995.

