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CHP Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu gave a live interview on Turkish TV channel NTV on September 3rd, 2020.

**Below are the highlights:**

**Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu:**

**We were experiencing a crisis in the economy, now we are experiencing a similar one with our foreign policy.**

**What is the Muslim Brotherhood policy?**

What is the understanding of the Muslim Brotherhood policy for God's sake? When did the deterioration of our relations begin?

The damage started when our citizens on board the Mavi Marmara flotilla sent to Israel in the Mediterranean sea. I mean it as a movement, it started before.

However, they went there on Mavi Marmara. **They should not have gone at all.** Israel came, shot, and killed our citizens in the open sea.

The judgment day came, Erdogan held press conferences and challenged everyone.

What happened then? Israel donated to a foundation, and everything was over. They asked for reparations, and Israel refused to pay that.

I will not pay reparations, Israel said, you will name a foundation, and I will donate the money there. I will present it to that foundation. And they passed this agreement through the parliament at midnight, thinking that citizens would not find out about it.

**Following that, Egypt. I have said that since 2015, that is, five years ago, our relations with Egypt must be kept good.** Why would you fight with Egypt?

Having such a fight with Egypt will bring Turkey to a disastrous point in the Mediterranean region. Why do you keep fighting?

When I asked him to make peace with Egypt, they called me a coup plotter. The coup happened, and you supported it, they said.

Friends, we do not support the coup; Egypt is a separate state. There were executions, and I have asked two of our high ranked party members and former ambassadors, Mr. Faruk Loğoğlu and Osman Korutürk, to travel to Egypt. I have asked them to have conversations indicating that political executions should have terminated. There should not be any executions due to political reasons. Turkey paid huge penalties and carried a great deal of remorse due to political executions in the past. We established universities, built roads, and bridges, and named them after the people we executed politically, but the society's conscience is still hurting today.

While they were doing that, as the main opposition party, we only considered Turkey's interests.

I said, what do you want from Al-Azhar University? They adopted the logo of Muslim Brotherhood for their political parties. What does Muslim Brotherhood do? They are telling us, "what PKK is to you is what Muslim Brotherhood is to us."

That is pretty clear. They declared Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group and if they were to support PKK today, are we not going to get angry about it?

Ok, my friend, Why are you supporting the Brotherhood then? Why are you volunteering to be the caliph? Nominating yourself as the Middle East's caliph? Go ahead and let me see how you become the caliph? That's our current situation with Egypt. I have asked them numerous times to open an Embassy in Egypt.

They have eliminated Ro-ro cruise lines. I have repeatedly stated about the economic losses because of the cancellation of the Ro-Ro cruises.

**I have asked them to open Embassies repeatedly in Egypt and Israel.** And Mr. Erdogan holds meetings with intelligence agencies.

Where is the Foreign Ministry? Is there a Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey? No.

They have appointed non-qualified con men for the jobs as ambassadors. I said if you designate a man who accepts bribes in chocolate boxes [Egemen Bagis], what would the world say about this? Would they not call us all thieves? Is this not a blow to Turkey's will power? I have told them and asked them not to do it.

**Let's sit down in the Middle East, talk, have conversations with Egypt, and enhance our relationship with them.**

Egypt signed an agreement with Greece. But take a look at this, Egypt is located on the southern side of the Mediterranean, and Turkey is on the northern side. A possible agreement between those two countries would have created a different atmosphere in the Eastern Mediterranean.

**Seda ÖĞRETİR:**

I was about to ask you that. You have stressed the importance of our relationship with Egypt many times. Do you think the source of the problems we are experiencing in the Eastern Mediterranean region is the lack of communication with Egypt? You say that if the Egypt issue had been handled differently, the problems in the Eastern Mediterranean today would have been prevented?

**Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu:** Egypt is vital in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Our government fought with Egypt; they went on and made an agreement with Libya. The agreement is good. It already passed our parliament, but Sarraj's government hasn't submitted it to their parliament yet.

There is danger awaiting Turkey. Where did Sarraj go? He went to France with the invitation of Macron.

What will happen if this agreement gets rejected by their parliament? Erdogan cannot hold his position.

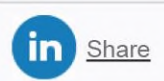
There is only one person who made our nation like this; it is Erdogan. Look, I am saying this clearly. It is Erdogan who transformed our beautiful Blue Homeland, where we used to be the strongest, including through international conventions, into where the sovereign powers came and negotiated over. **I still say get a deal with Egypt. I always tell him to sign an agreement with Egypt and sign one with Israel, open the embassies, and appoint our ambassadors.**

Look, a former ambassador of Egypt to Turkey gave an interview on TV. He spoke with common sense.

What did we say? States build their foreign policies based upon the interests of their own countries. Sir, they say, "this is state policy." No, this is Erdogan's state.

What does it mean if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is essentially deactivated? Foreign affairs is being ruled from the presidential palace while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is standing there? İbrahim Kalın, He is the de facto foreign minister.

<https://www.chp.org.tr/haberler/chp-genel-baskani-kemal-kilicdaroglu-ntvde-3-eylul-2020>



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