

## **After 2 years, Turkey appoints new ambassador to Israel - December 14, 2020**

Turkey has appointed a new ambassador to Israel after a two-year absence. In May 2018, Ankara withdrew its envoy over deadly attacks against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip who were protesting US President Donald Trump's decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The move to appoint Ufuk Ulutas, 40, as the new Turkish ambassador is part of an attempt to improve ties with incoming President-elect Joe Biden's administration, a report by Al-Monitor. Ulutas, described as "very polished", "very clever" and "very pro-Palestinian" by sources quoted in the report, studied Hebrew and Middle Eastern politics at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is also an expert on Israel's regional rival, Iran, but is not a career diplomat.