



NATO should part ways with Turkey-analysis

July 21, 2019

Turkey is no longer a desirable ally and NATO should break away with Ankara, U.S.-based think tank CATO Institute said.

"Turkey no longer is a credible or desirable ally on the basis of either political values or security considerations. The United States and NATO need to part ways with Ankara," the think tank said.

A clear national commitment to democracy was welcome but not vital for membership to NATO during the Cold War era, but recently Western leaders define NATO not only as a military alliance but also as an alliance that its members of democracies, according to CATO Institute.

"Turkey's mounting domestic repression has become an acute embarrassment," the think tank said, adding that autocratic trends in both Hungary and Poland are disturbing.

On top of Turkey's drifting away from democracy, Ankara's rapprochement with Russia and purchase of Russian S-400 missile systems despite U.S. and NATO officials' objections, turned Turkey into an unreliable partner even if NATO is merely a security alliance, CATO institute said.

Turkey started receiving Russian S-400 systems last week, despite Washington's concerns that the move may lead to Russian subterfuge on F-35 stealth fighter jets.

The United States took matters further this week and halted the delivery of F-35 stealth fighter jets to Turkey and suspended the country's participation to joint F-35 manufacturing programme. Now, Ankara risks further U.S. sanctions over S-400 purchase.