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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Tenth session
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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION

Comments of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey with regard to the joint statement made by the representative of "Centre Europe - Tiers monde" (CETIM) on behalf of "Women's International League for Peace and Freedom", "Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples" (MRAP), "Association internationale des juristes démocrates" (AIJD)*

Geneva, 23 March 2009

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organisations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council and has the honour to place on record the following comments with regard to the joint statement made by the representative of "Centre Europe - Tiers monde" (CETIM) on behalf of "Women's International League for Peace and Freedom", "Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples" (MRAP), "Association internationale des juristes démocrates" (AIJD) under agenda item 4 on Friday, 17 March 2009.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey kindly requests that these comments be circulated as an official document of the Tenth Session of the Human Rights Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council the assurances of its highest consideration.

* Reproduced in the annex, as received and in the language of submission only.

Annex

"Turkey pursues a zero tolerance to human rights violations and takes such allegations seriously. However, the accusations directed at Turkey in the joint statement made on behalf of some NGOs under agenda item 4 on 17 March 2008, are groundless and unsubstantiated. The portrayed incidents are totally fabricated and all figures are distorted. Some of the references shown in the footnotes do not even include such allegations.

The violations alleged in the joint statement have not been received or considered by any of the domestic monitoring mechanisms in place in Turkey. Furthermore, these allegations have not been referred to the Turkish authorities neither by the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, (including the Special Procedures to which Turkey has issued a Standing Invitation) nor by the European human rights bodies. It should also be noted that such allegations have not been the subject of discussion with any of the credible NGOs, which Turkey sees as partners in the field of human rights.

In view of the above, Turkey considers these allegations totally unacceptable. They should be an eye opener about the real motives and credibility of those, who relayed them."
