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CONSEJO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS  
12º período de sesiones  
Tema 4 de la agenda

**SITUACIONES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS QUE REQUIEREN  
LA ATENCIÓN DEL CONSEJO**

**Nota verbal de fecha 30 de septiembre de 2009 dirigida a la Oficina del  
Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos  
por la Misión Permanente de Turquía**

La Misión Permanente de la República de Turquía ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y demás organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra, Suiza, saluda atentamente a la Secretaría del Consejo de Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de hacer constar sus comentarios sobre la declaración formulada el 22 de septiembre de 2009 por el representante de Centro Europa-Tercer Mundo (CETIM), en nombre también del Movimiento contra el Racismo y la Amistad entre los Pueblos, en relación con el tema 4 de la agenda (véase el anexo)\*.

La Misión Permanente de la República de Turquía solicita que se distribuyan la presente carta y su anexo como documento del 12º período de sesiones del Consejo.

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\* La presente carta se distribuye en todos los idiomas oficiales. El anexo de la carta se distribuye como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.

## **Anexo**

### **Comments with regard to the joint statement made by the representative of "Centre Europe - Tiers monde" (CETIM) on behalf of CETIM and "Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples" (MRAP) under agenda item 4 on 22 September 2009**

Turkey appreciates the work done by the NGOs in the field of human rights and continues to extend its support to them in line with the importance it attaches to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

Turkey, however, disagrees with the remarks of a particular NGO regarding the human rights situation in Turkey.

At the outset, Turkey would like to underline that within its territory there is neither an administrative nor a geographical region called Kurdistan. Furthermore, to name a region as "Turkish Kurdistan" lacks respect to Turkey's territorial integrity.

This statement merely limits itself to a biased report and ignores significant developments in Turkey.

Since 2001, Turkey has actively pursued a comprehensive reform process aimed at protecting and promoting human rights, strengthening democracy and consolidating the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary. A series of legal reforms have been carried out including a number of amendments to the Constitution and complete overhaul of basic laws. The new Civil Code, the new Penal Code, the new Law on Associations and the new Code of Criminal Procedure were adopted to this end. These efforts by Turkey have received wide attention of and support from the international community.

Fight against torture and ill-treatment has been a priority item on the Government's agenda. From the outset, the Government has adopted and carried out a "zero tolerance" policy for combating torture. Today, Turkey has the legislative and regulatory framework necessary to effectively combat torture. This was also acknowledged by the former President of the CPT, Ms Silvia Casale, as early as October 2004 when she stated that it would be difficult to find a Council of Europe member state with a more advanced set of provisions in combating torture.

The reform process continues to improve the standards of democracy and human rights for the benefit of all our citizens regardless of their origins. The Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) and private TV and radio channels broadcast in languages and dialects used traditionally by Turkish citizens in their daily lives. Since 2003 private courses for learning these languages and dialects have been opened. As of January 2009 a new multilingual TV channel, TRT-6, broadcasts uninterruptedly in Kurdish.

The Government remains committed to investigating all allegations of human rights violations. In addition to the judicial ones, besides the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, there are governmental/administrative and parliamentary remedies. To further consolidate these reforms, preparations are underway for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution compliant with the Paris Principles. The success of the reform process in Turkey is already acknowledged by relevant international organizations and mechanisms."

Geneva, 30 September 2009

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