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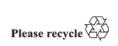
Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 11 October 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations Office in Geneva and the international organizations in Switzerland hereby transmits the observations of the Republic of Türkiye on the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-fourth session¹ (see annex).

The Permanent Mission kindly requests that the present note verbale and the annex thereto* be issued as a document of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 4, circulated as a document of the United Nations and posted on the relevant page of the website of the Council.





¹ A/HRC/54/58.

^{*} Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex to the note verbale dated 11 October 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Türkiye to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Observations of the Republic of Türkiye on the Report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic submitted to the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council

D 0	The warpert underlines "continuation of mutual attacks
Para. 8	The report underlines "continuation of mutual attacks between the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on one side and Türkiye and the Syrian National Army (SNA) on the
	other."
	We denounce this classification as Türkiye cannot be put
	on an equal footing with the terrorist organization. So-called
	"SDF" is affiliated with the PKK/YPG terrorist organization and
	Türkiye is pursuing a counter-terrorism operation on the basis of
	the right of self-defense. Türkiye's right of self-defense cannot be merely defined as "attack".
	Reference to so-called "autonomous administration" in
	various parts of the report (SDF-linked autonomous administration
	in the north-east), lacks a legal basis and constitutes a deliberate
	attempt by the Commission to confer legitimacy to a region of a Member State, implicitly, as if it is a separate area, and upon an
	entity closely linked with a terrorist organization. This is a self-
	declared title by a PKK/YPG-linked entity undermining Syria's
	territorial integrity. It has no legal basis on international law.
	Misuse of this legal definition in this report casts shadow to
	impartiality of the report. Such legal terms should not be used
	arbitrarily.
Para. 19-21	The report states that "a convoy carrying fuel from the Syrian
	Democratic Forces-linked autonomous administration in the
	north-east to communities in Syrian National Army-controlled Afrin was refused entry by the authorities on 10 February,
	citing concerns of being politicized.
	This description is not fair and does not fully correspond
	the reality. In the aftermath of February earthquakes, many actors,
	including the tribes from the northeast and KRG of Iraq were able
	to dispatch humanitarian assistance to the affected areas in the
	northwest. It is the so-called "SDF" itself which politicized the
	matter of humanitarian assistance.
Para 81/82/83/84	The report claims that Turkish officials are involved or not
	prevented human right violations and civilian casualties have
	been recorded out of Turkish drone attacks.
	☐ Türkiye fully respects international humanitarian law.
	Turkish officials have not been involved, directly or indirectly, in
	any human rights violation in Syria. Türkiye rejects baseless
	allegations of violations falsely attributed to Turkish authorities.
	Moreover, claiming the presence of Turkish officials in
	investigations in Syria without providing any substantial
	evidence casts shadow on the impartiality of the report. The
	areas that were cleared from terrorist elements through counter-
	terrorism operations of the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) and Syrian National Army (SNA) are under the control of the
	executive branches of the legitimate Syrian opposition.
	executive branches of the regionnate Syrian opposition.

