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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REPORTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**Letter dated 22 September 2008 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to convey its views on the unfounded allegations against Turkey contained in the contribution made by Iraq to the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/HRC/9/2) (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Turkey would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the ninth session.

Annex

On the first sentence of paragraph 20

The terrorist organization has claimed countless lives of Turkish citizens as a result of its murderous campaign from its bases in the north of Iraq. Turkey, has the responsibility to protect its citizens against the attacks of the terrorist organizations. In that sense, numerous diplomatic attempts have been made to resolve the problem of terrorist presence in northern Iraq. In the absence of any other viable option, Turkey had to take some military measures which exclusively targeted the terrorist organization. Utmost care is exercised to prevent civilian casualty. The Iraqi Government was assured that these measures shall have a temporary character and limited scope. Turkey remains among the staunchest advocates of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity of Iraq.

On the second sentence of paragraph 20

Turkey considers transboundary waters as a significant component of cooperative relations between the riparian States. Turkey has always advocated the utilization of the waters of the Euphrates-Tigris River Basin in an equitable, rational and optimal manner by the three riparian States (Turkey, Syria and Iraq). Thus it is of the opinion that an agreement reached on the allocation of water regarding the Euphrates-Tigris River Basin should be within the framework of an integrated water resources management and with the participation of the three riparian States. In the context of water issues in the above-mentioned Basin with Syria and Iraq, Turkey has never overlooked the interests of its south-eastern neighbours. Therefore, it is difficult to understand the unfounded allegation in paragraph.20 of the report that “a possible water sharing agreement by Syria and Turkey might have a negative impact on Iraq”.
