



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

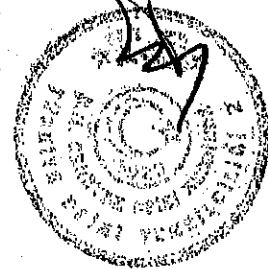
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the joint urgent appeal sent by Mr. David Kaye, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Ms. Monica Pinto, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, and Mr. Christof Heyns, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, dated 1 December 2015 and Reference: UA, TUR 4/2015, has the honour to enclose herewith an information note comprising the response of the Government of the Republic of Turkey to the aforementioned appeal.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 31 December 2015

Encl: As stated



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

Information Note on the Urgent Appeal of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions

1. On 28 November 2015 Mr. Tahir Elçi, the head of Bar Association of Diyarbakır, following the completion of his delivery of a press statement was killed with a gunshot in a street of Sur, a district of Diyarbakır.

2. The information on the facts collected by the national authorities concerning the context of incidents in which Mr. Elçi's death took place is submitted below:

- On 27 November 2015, three members of the terrorist organization (PKK) attacked a patrolling police car in Bağlar, Diyarbakır. Three police officers were injured during the armed assault. One of the terrorists, who escaped after the armed assault, was identified. On 28 November 2015, he was seen while taking a taxi with another terrorist, whose identity could not be confirmed. This information was shared with the related institutions.

- At around 10.50 a.m. on the same day, the anti-terror units tried to stop the mentioned taxi in Suriçi, Balıkcılarbaşı point to arrest the terrorists. However, the terrorists in the taxi opened fire on the police officers. Two police officers died and one was injured during the incident.

- After the attack, the terrorists escaped from the place of incident on foot. They headed to the area known as "Four-Legged Minaret" on the same route where Mr. Tahir Elçi, made his press statement. A shootout took place between the terrorists and the police officers who were present for security.

- Mr. Tahir Elçi lost his life and two journalists were injured during the shootout. The post mortem examination report revealed that Mr. Tahir Elçi died as a result of long ranged firearm injury.

3. After the incident, the Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Interior immediately launched parallel investigations. The post mortem examination was held and the witness statements were taken in the scope of the investigation carried out by the Diyarbakır Public Prosecutor's Office. However, on-site inspections of the crime scene were disrupted three times by the bomb and armed attacks directed to the scene of incident. Therefore, the work on collection of evidence and required examination had been initiated but could not be completed. The investigation is continuing.

4. As to the investigation started on the day of incident by the Ministry of Interior the Department of Civil Inspection Board and the General Directorate of Security have assigned two civil administration inspectors and two chief police inspectors respectively. The Ministry instructed its relevant units for its prompt and comprehensive conduct with due diligence. The inspectors started their investigation immediately and their work is underway.