



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

2014/62441669-BMCO DT/4494654

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 Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context Ms. Raquel Rolnik's letter dated 27 February 2014 (ref: AL Housing (2000-9) TUR 2/2014), has the honour to transmit herewith an informative note obtained from the relevant Turkish authorities, regarding the measures taken to provide adequate housing for those affected by the earthquake that took place in the district of Van in 2011.

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, 7 April 2014



Encl: As stated

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
Geneva

 OHCHR REGISTRY

- 8 APR 2014

Recipients : SPD
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**RESPONSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO THE COMMUNICATION
RECEIVED FROM THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON ADEQUATE HOUSING AS A
COMPONENT OF THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING, AND ON
THE RIGHT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION IN THIS CONTEXT**

The Turkish Government would like to submit the following information in response to the allegations stated in the communication sent by Raquel Rolnik, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context:

The Turkish Government pays utmost importance for finding solutions at national scale to problems with regard to housing and urbanization in Turkey. In this respect, the Prime Ministry Housing Development Administration (TOKI) performs its activities to build adequate and qualified housing in healthy and habitable urban environments in Turkey. The Mass Housing Law (Law No. 2985, on 'public housing') is the framework law defining the fundamental principles to find solutions to the housing problem in Turkey. Accordingly, the Housing Development Fund was established and the operation of the said Fund was given to TOKI.

With the "Mobilization for Planned Urbanization and Housing Production" project, which was launched by the Turkish Government in 2003, it was aimed to build 500.000 housing units throughout the country. To date, a total number of 622.403 housing units in 81 provinces were established by TOKI in line with the Government Programs and Emergency Action Plans. Moreover, 5.357 educational, healthcare, sports and social facilities as well as public buildings were constructed and put into service in line with the requirements of public entities.

TOKI's work bear significance in finding solutions for the housing problem of low- and middle-income groups who are not able to become a house owner due to current market conditions.

Furthermore, the "Projects concerning Disasters" are carried out by TOKI at domestic and international level which are intended to fulfill the urgent housing needs that arise as a consequence of natural disasters. Within the scope of the said projects, houses are built in the disaster areas.

As a result of two earthquakes that occurred in the Province of Van on October 23rd and November 9th, 2011, 13,223 persons whose houses were extensively damaged in the city centre and the District of Erciş have been regarded as eligible to benefit from housing opportunities. The Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD) Presidency requested that the construction works of temporary living spaces and permanent disaster houses be undertaken by TOKI. In this respect, 17,489 houses in total, together with social facilities, infrastructure and landscape in accordance with their construction projects were built for the victims of the disasters in the city centre (12,609) and the District of Erciş (4,880). In addition, 1,100 persons who were owners of the houses with extensive damage but were not able to submit probative documents such as certificate of title or invoice, and 161 persons who lost their first degree relative in the earthquake were also granted houses. Following the completion of the construction of the houses, people living in 34 container cities were transferred to the permanent houses and the containers have been evacuated as of October 29th, 2012. Currently, there are 81 families residing in four container cities and they have not been forced to leave the container cities. Services and infrastructure such as electricity and water are still provided in these container cities.

The Governorship of Van has carried out an extensive study with respect to the families living in the containers and the economic and social situation of the families have been analyzed. In order to improve the living conditions of the families, they have been informed that the Governorship will provide them with housing benefit if they decide to leave the container cities to live in a rented house. 78 families, who accepted the offer and rented a house, are provided with housing benefit.

Therefore, the Government of Turkey would like to state that all necessary measures have been taken for recovery of the losses of those who were adversely affected from the earthquake.