



PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA

Ambassador

Geneva, 2 December 2019

Ms. Special Rapporteur, *Dear Ms. Ni Aolain,*

Further to our phone conversation on 22 November, 2019 I would like to inform you that after the completion of all judicial and administrative procedures by the Turkish and Irish authorities, the two Irish nationals; Ms. Lisa Smith and her infant child, have been repatriated to Ireland on the morning of 1 December, 2019 via the flight of Turkish Airlines.

On the other hand, following my detailed explanations during our conversation, and per your request I attach herewith an informative note regarding Turkey's policy on the issue of Foreign Fighters with concrete figures and statistics in a detailed manner.

I am ready to share with you further information you may request.

Please accept, Ms. Special Rapporteur, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sadık Arslan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Encl. As stated

Ms Fionnuala Ni Aolain
Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
And Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism

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Turkey has been playing a unique role in terms of the prevention of FTF movements, thereby directly contributing to the international efforts to counter terrorism.

Besides, Turkey is an active member of the Global Coalition Against DAESH and is co-chairing Counter DAESH Coalition Working Group on FTFs.

As parts of its efforts to prevent the movements of FTFs in compliance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, Turkey has taken multiple measures.

To illustrate the extent of the encountered FTF problem and the measures taken by Turkey, the followings could be underlined.

Turkey has developed a non-entry list wherein 76.818 individuals from 151 countries are included. More than 7.600 foreign nationals from 102 different countries who are suspected of FTF related activity have been deported.

There are also 30 Risk Analysis Units operating actively in different provinces, major airports, and bus and train stations. They have checked over 32.000 passengers, interviewed more than 20.200 people, denied entry and deported more than 9.500 suspected FTFs so far.

In addition, there are about 700 foreigners who have been detained and convicted through judicial processes due to their connections to DAESH.

On the other hand, there are more than 900 foreign nationals that are suspected to be FTFs and kept at the 12 Deportation Centers operated by the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM).

As part of the Turkish-US deal on North eastern Syria, Turkey is committed to taking custody of FTFs, their wives and children who are found within our operation area. In this context, our forces have come across FTFs released or escaped from PKK/PYD/YPG held camps. Currently, there are about 300 FTFs kept in custody in Syria. Most of them are women and children.

Turkey wants the source countries to repatriate FTFs as soon as possible and has been cooperating with the relevant countries in this regard.

It should be noted that Turkey has been bearing the main burden of FTF's. It is high time that origin countries assume their responsibility by repatriation, prosecution and rehabilitation of their own nationals.

Yet, despite Turkey's repeated calls, some of our partners continue to take such measures as revoking citizenships or refusing to issue travel documents. This is a very dangerous trend that damages our overall counter terrorism efforts.

The FTF suspects, due to legal provisions, can only be detained for a year. Hence, Turkey is taking every step to facilitate repatriation processes. It is also important to note that the Embassies of the source and destination countries are informed about the deportations in advance so that necessary measures could be taken in those countries.

Turkey does its utmost to ensure humane conditions during FTF stays at the deportation centers. We also take every measure to ensure that repatriations take place in a humanely and regulated

manner. The high number of deportations carried out so far indicates Turkey's goodwill and efforts in this respect.

To sum up, Turkey is not the party that delays or hinders repatriation processes. Indeed, the opposite holds true since Turkey calls on its partners to cooperate with a view to finding a sustainable solution to the FTF related issues. Repatriation is key to find such a solution and Turkey continues to underline the need to facilitate repatriations.