



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Z-2025/62441669/41060589 - URGENT

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations Office in 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 Communication from Special Procedures dated 8 October 2025 (Ref: AL TUR 9/2025), has the honour to enclose herewith the information note provided by relevant Turkish authorities.

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

Geneva, 5 December 2025



Encl: As stated.

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**Palais Wilson**  
**Rue des Pâquis 52**  
**1201 Geneva**

## **INFORMATION NOTE IN REPLY TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES**

**(Reference: AL TUR 9/2025)**

1. On 15 July 2016, Türkiye was faced with an unprecedentedly large-scale and brutal coup attempt perpetrated by the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ). FETÖ, a clandestine terrorist organization which had insidiously infiltrated into critical government posts, attempted to destroy democracy and take over the democratically elected Government on 15 July.

Terrorist acts perpetrated by FETÖ on that night cost the lives of 251 Turkish citizens and injured over 2000. Several key institutions representing the will of the Turkish people, including the Parliament, were heavily assaulted.

In order to restore democracy and protect the rights and freedoms of Turkish citizens, structures into which FETÖ had infiltrated through its thousands of members for decades within all branches of government as well as the military and the judiciary needed to be completely rooted out. A State of Emergency (SoE) was declared shortly after the attempted coup and was also endorsed by the Turkish Parliament on 21 July 2016.

Throughout the SoE, Türkiye acted in line with its international human rights obligations while maintaining its close cooperation and dialogue with international organizations including the United Nations and the Council of Europe. SoE was lifted on 19 July 2018.

Effective domestic legal remedies, including the right to lodge an individual application before the Constitutional Court, which is recognized by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) as an effective domestic remedy, are available in Türkiye. In addition to existing domestic remedies, the Inquiry Commission on State of Emergency Measures was established with a view to receiving applications regarding administrative acts carried out pursuant to the Decree Laws enacted during the SoE. Further remedies are available against the decisions of the Commission. The ECtHR recognized the Commission as a domestic remedy. Furthermore, an application can be lodged before the ECtHR after the exhaustion of domestic remedies.

Even before the attempted coup, FETÖ was known to employ complex strategies to advance its agenda. These included blackmailing politicians and bureaucrats, cheating on a mass-scale in public exams in order to place its members in key government posts, practicing social engineering, manipulation and indoctrination, presenting fabricated stories to spark off judicial proceedings against its opponents through its extensive network of media outlets, businesses, schools and NGOs.

FETÖ is now employing the strategy of presenting itself as a victim of human rights violations to hide its crimes. Its members deliberately try to deceive and manipulate international public opinion by spreading false allegations against Türkiye. These include unfounded claims of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and even enforced disappearances while its members go into hiding at the orders of their leader. In fact, it is FETÖ itself that perpetrated grave human rights violations in Türkiye, including cold bloodedly killing innocent civilians thus violating the very fundamental right to life of hundreds of Turkish citizens.

**2.** As regards the allegations raised in the communication letter, the Government wishes to clarify that it was able to obtain information about the person whose identity could be established based on the communication letter. In this regard the Government would like to submit the following information concerning Elif Değirmenci.

The Government would first like to stress that, since the investigation phase is confidential pursuant to Article 157 of the CCP, the information that can be provided in this stage is limited.

The Gaziantep Chief Public Prosecutor's Office has initiated an investigation regarding Elif Değirmenci for the offences of "being a member of an armed terrorist organisation" and "violation of the Law on the Prevention of the Financing of Terrorism". Upon the request of the Gaziantep Chief Public Prosecutorship, Elif Değirmenci was arrested on 6 May 2025 and the Gaziantep 5<sup>th</sup> Magistrate Judgeship decided on 7 May 2025 to place her under pre-trial detention pursuant to Article 100 of the CCP. During the proceedings, she was appointed a lawyer from the Bar, and her health condition was regularly checked. On 29 July 2025, Elif Değirmenci was released from detention. On 30 June 2025, Gaziantep 2<sup>nd</sup> Assize Court ruled that it was not competent to hear the case and referred the file to the Ankara 17<sup>th</sup> Assize Court, where the case is still pending.

**3.** In line with the explanations provided above, Türkiye requests the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, not to allow FETÖ and its members to abuse these mechanisms, and to dismiss their allegations. Türkiye will continue to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms and maintain its long-standing cooperation with international organizations.