



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Turkey appreciates the role and contributions of NGOs in the field of human rights. We regard NGO's as essential elements for furthering the cause of human rights both at national and international level. With this understanding we welcome the efforts of many NGO's to make positive and constructive contributions within the UN system.

It is with the same understanding and expectations that some principles have been laid down in conjunction with the work of the NGO's in the UN system. According to the ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31:

-the aims and purposes of the NGOs shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations (paragraph-2),

-NGOs to be accorded special consultative status because of their interest in the field of human rights should pursue the goals of promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (paragraph-25),

-NGOs granted consultative status by the Council shall conform at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of their consultative relations with the Council (paragraph-55)

-The consultative status of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the listing of those on the Roster shall be suspended up to three years or withdrawn if an organization, either directly or through its affiliates or representatives acting on its behalf, clearly abuses its status by engaging in a pattern of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations including unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations (paragraph 57-a).

It is against this backdrop that I would like to bring to the attention of the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations that "Centre Europe-Tiers Monde/Third World Centre" (CETIM), an NGO with general consultative status with the ECOSOC, has been failing to conform to these principles and abusing its consultative status by undertaking a pattern of politically motivated acts and amplifying unsubstantiated allegations against Turkey.

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I wish to underline that the purpose of this letter is not to respond to the baseless allegations of CETIM. I will only refer to some examples, which are sufficient to illustrate the hidden agenda and political motives of this NGO against Turkey.

-In 1998, in its statement (E.CN.4/Sub.2/1998/NGO) delivered at the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, CETIM referred to part of Turkey as "Turkish Kurdistan".

-In 2002, in the statement delivered at the Sub-Commission of Human Rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/NGO/13), CETIM "urged the EU Council to rethink its decision on including the PKK to the list of terrorist organizations". In the said statement terrorist attacks of PKK/Kongra-Gel are described as "an armed struggle" and members of this terrorist organization as "Kurdish activists, guerillas and sympathizers of the Kurdish cause".

-In 2010, in the joint statement delivered at the 13th Session of the Human Rights Council, CETIM referred to Remzi Kartal and Eyup "Faruk" Doru, two high ranking members of terror organization PKK/Kongra-Gel, as "human rights defenders". These Turkish nationals are sought by INTERPOL through red bulletins on charges of terrorism.

-In 2010, the written statement submitted by CETIM for review of Turkey by Human Rights Council under the universal periodic review mechanism, is replete with unfounded allegations and politically motivated falsifications against Turkey and not acceptable in its entirety. CETIM refers to terror organization PKK/Kongra-Gel as "Kurdish militia" and "Kurdish guerillas", its members as "fighters of the PKK" and its terrorist activities as "Kurdish rebellion" and "armed struggle of the Workers Party of Kurdistan".

-In the written statement submitted by CETIM for review of Turkey by Human Rights Council, which is available on the web site of CETIM, terminology such as "Turkish Kurdistan" is repeatedly used. Furthermore, one Turkish city is referred as "capital of Turkish Kurdistan".

First, there is no administrative or geographical region called "Turkish Kurdistan". Describing one part of Turkey as "Turkish Kurdistan" and mentioning one Turkish city as its "capital" at the very least lacks respect to the territorial integrity and political unity of Turkey. Respect to territorial integrity and political unity of UN Member States is among the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and among the basic requirements of the ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31. Therefore, this situation not only runs contrary to territorial integrity and political unity of Turkey and consequently the Charter of the UN, but also constitutes a clear violation of ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31.

Secondly, PKK/Kongra-Gel is a vicious terrorist organization which has claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people. It is on the list of terrorist organizations of the USA, the UK and Australia among others, as well as the European Union and NATO.

Terror organization PKK/Kongra-Gel, via its network and affiliated organizations in Europe, is also involved in transnational criminal activities such as drug trafficking, money-laundering, arms smuggling and human trafficking to finance its terrorist activities.

Thirdly, terminology used in the above mentioned CETIM statements is the same terminology used by the terror organization PKK/Kongra-Gel. What is more alarming than the terminology used, is the mentality behind these statements which reflects the mentality of terror organization PKK/Kongra-Gel.

It is worth underlining that at the United Nations, acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are considered as activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. Terrorism is condemned in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. Furthermore, incitement to terrorism and condoning terrorist acts are prohibited under international law.

In light of the above, it is abundantly clear that not only statements of CETIM are full of unsubstantiated and politically motivated allegations against Turkey, moreover CETIM, an NGO with general consultative status with ECOSOC, has become a propaganda vehicle of terror organization PKK/Kongra-Gel at the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations is of the view that the paragraph 57 (a) of the ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 which stipulates suspension of consultative status up to three years or its withdrawal, is fully applicable to CETIM. Therefore, I kindly request that this letter is brought to the attention of the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations under relevant agenda item during its Resumed Session to be held on 26 May-4 June 2010.

Best regards,



Fazlı Çorman
Minister Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative