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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERALBİRLEŞMİŞ MİLLETLER NEZDİNDE
TÜRKİYE DAİMİ TEMSİLCİLİĞİPERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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New York, 14 January 2014

Excellency,

With reference to various letters by the Syrian Permanent Representative, addressed to the United Nations Secretary General and to the Security Council, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, Turkey has attached importance to consultation and cooperation with the international community in efforts towards addressing the grave humanitarian consequences of an all-out war waged by the Syrian regime against its own people. Turkey has maintained an "open door" policy for Syrians fleeing from the atrocities and violence inflicted upon them by the regime. Turkey strictly complies with the principle of non-rejection at the border and, in accordance with international rules and practices for the protection of refugees, has provided Syrians with "temporary protection" without any discrimination, in full mobilization of its national resources and in cooperation with the UN and its agencies as well as contributing countries. Turkey, furthermore, channels substantial humanitarian aid to Syria through the border zero point delivery operation, developed in line with international humanitarian norms and in support of the UN campaign carried out in Syria. In so far as our national laws and regulations permit we also supported those international non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian operations in Syria. The Turkish Government remains committed to pursue this policy.

Turkey is a state governed by the rule of law and all acts, including those related to humanitarian aid regarding Syria, are carried out in accordance with the laws in force.

Therefore, the unfounded allegations in the form of a defamation campaign targeting Turkey's humanitarian aid activities to the Syrian people originate from those circles, spearheaded by the Syrian regime, which are uncomfortable with the principled stance and consistent policies of Turkey. Those behind such manipulations should instead strive towards bringing to an end one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 21st century. As is well known, this crisis is an outcome of a deliberate and indiscriminate assault by an oppressive regime against its people.

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Having suffered gravely from acts of terrorism itself for decades, Turkey plays a leading role in the international efforts towards combatting terrorism. It is thus unconceivable that Turkey, also co-chairing the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, is portrayed as acting otherwise by any means.

On that note Excellency, having rejected similar baseless allegations of the Syrian regime in various platforms in earlier instances, I would like to reaffirm that, Turkey in cooperation and solidarity with the international community and on the basis of international law will continue to extend a helping hand to the Syrian people, whose legitimate aspirations should be met without further delay.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Levent Eler
Deputy Permanent Representative
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

Cc. -H.E. Dr. John Ashe
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York

- H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
President of the Security Council
United Nations
New York