



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

Z-2021/62441669/32247872 -

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey 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 the Joint Communication from Special Procedures dated 6 November 2020 (AL TUR 21/2020), has the honour to enclose herewith the observations provided by the Government of the Republic of Turkey.

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, 21 January 2021

Encl: As stated.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

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

(AL TUR 21/2020)

With reference to the Joint Communication from Special Procedures Ref: AL TUR 21/2020 dated 6 November 2020, the following observations are brought to your attention.

We reject the unfounded and unfortunate allegations raised in the Joint Communication.

The baseless allegations mentioned in the Joint Communication are detached from the facts on the ground. The reason behind the circulation of these fake news is Armenia's intention to divert attention away from its illegal occupation and create the perception of a supposedly "victimized country fighting against international terrorism".

It is proven that Armenia has recorded images of the members of the Syrian National Army and circulated them on the internet as pseudo evidence. Neither these fake videos nor the comments of people paid in exchange of testimony have any credibility or validity.

The press release by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries based on black propaganda products of fake images and fabricated news has undermined the credibility of the UN Special Procedures Mechanism. What is expected from the Mechanism is to work transparently and collect the views of all relevant parties, rather than make biased and misleading statements.

On the other hand, we find it positive, yet insufficient, for the statement to mention that Armenia has used foreign fighters in the clashes. It is common knowledge that Armenia deployed Syria based PKK / YPG terrorists to Nagorno Karabakh. In fact, many PKK terrorists, whose names were known to us, were neutralized by the Azerbaijani army in the fighting.

As the Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan has confessed, many ethnic Armenian citizens of third countries took part in the clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh. We would have expected the Special Rapporteurs to investigate this information, which is supported with images in open sources, in greater detail and reflect it in the statement.

Although the statement mentions deliberate attacks on civilians, we deem it a deliberate neglect not to mention that it was Armenia doing this. As stated by Prime Minister Pashinyan's military adviser, Armenia has deliberately attacked civilian settlements in Azerbaijan with illegal cluster bombs in order to create chaos among the people, thus has committed war crimes. Armenia's violation of international law has also been recorded by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.