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ENGLISH only

**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF TURKEY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY,  
AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM**

**on International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

**899<sup>th</sup> PERMANENT COUNCIL  
26 January 2012**

Thank you Mr Chairperson,

I join previous speakers in commemorating millions of Jews and members of many other minority groups who lost their lives under the Nazi regime during the Second World War.

Sixty seven years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> of January, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp had been liberated. Upon the designation by the United Nations, people, from all over the world, are holding ceremonies in remembrance to those innocent men, women and children who lost their lives during the Holocaust.

Condemning the Holocaust as the most grave and unprecedented crime against humanity throughout history, taking necessary precautions to prevent its recurrence in the future and promoting the endeavours to educate new generations are not only a duty of every member state of the U.N, but also an obligation to humanity.

We believe that the importance of honoring the victims of this heinous crime for the future generations cannot be overstated. Stemming from its belief in mutual understanding, tolerance, freedom, security and democracy, Turkey will continue to support international efforts aimed at commemorating, raising awareness about and drawing lessons from Holocaust and at combating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

On this occasion, we also remember with profound respect the brave and honorable Turkish diplomats who did not hesitate to risk their own lives in order to contribute to rescuing the persons who were exposed to such unprecedented persecution.

Thank you.