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ENGLISH only

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
(Arrest of a suspect in connection with attacks against elderly people in Istanbul)
(944th Meeting of the Permanent Council, 14 March 2013)**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

As a follow-up to my response given to the current issue raised by my distinguished colleague, the Ambassador of Armenia on 31 January, I would like to inform the Council that as a result of the prompt and thorough investigations conducted following several attacks to elderly people in various neighborhoods of Istanbul, a suspect has been arrested on 3 March 2013 in connection with the stabbing of late Mrs. Marissa Küçük, a Turkish citizen of Armenian descent. The suspect, Mr. Murat Nazaryan, himself also of Armenian descent, corresponds to the composite drawing that I mentioned in my earlier response of 31 January.

The overlap between evidence in the late Mrs. Marissa Küçük's flat and blood samples of Murat Nazaryan make him the prime suspect of this case. Mr. Nazaryan has also been recognized by eyewitnesses as the perpetrator of the attack against Mrs. Sultan Aykar, aged 83, who is not of Armenian descent.

I wanted to share these pieces of information which confirm our earlier statement that these deplorable attacks were not directed solely against people of Armenian descent and that allegations that they were racially motivated should be evaluated with utmost caution. We remain deeply saddened by these crimes regardless of the background of their victims and perpetrators.

Investigations concerning other attacks against elderly people in the recent months in Istanbul are underway. We reserve the right to inform the Permanent Council, if need be, on additional developments.

Thank you.

