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United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Terrorist Attacks in Turkey

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 28, 2015

The United States condemns the ongoing attacks in Turkey by the Kurdistan Workers' Party that have resulted in the tragic loss of life. We extend our deep condolences to the families and loved ones of the soldiers, police and innocent civilians who have perished. We deplore the PKK's use of violence and call for the return to a peaceful political process.

Turkey is a close friend, ally and partner of the United States and has the right to defend itself from terrorism. We also continue to stress the importance of acting in accordance with domestic and applicable international law. OSCE participating States have repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of respecting international law and protecting human rights standards in the fight against terrorism.

We note the statements made by leaders across the political spectrum in Turkey condemning the violence and appealing for calm. We endorse these calls and will continue to monitor events in Turkey closely.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.