



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR TACAN İLDEM  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
In response to the Statement of the Permanent Representative of Armenia  
(939<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council, 31 January 2013)**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Let me express my thanks and appreciation to the distinguished Ambassador of Armenia for bringing this matter to the attention of the Permanent Council, thereby giving me the opportunity to clarify the issue.

I would like to inform the Permanent Council that the relevant Turkish authorities are diligently investigating the recent violent attacks that took place in different districts of Istanbul, as has been raised by the Armenian delegation.

Statements made by the Governor of Istanbul indicate that a number of incidents that took place in the Fatih district or its close vicinity, during the period of November 2012 to January 2013, followed a similar pattern, but did not specifically target our citizens of Armenian descent but were rather generally aimed at elderly, vulnerable persons who were living unaccompanied. Let me emphasize that some of the victims of these incidents originating from possibly the same perpetrator were not of Armenian origin.

There are indications that theft was the motivation in those incidents. There are also reports suggesting that these crimes were committed by a single person, who is currently sought by the authorities. The Governor of Istanbul shared this information with the press last Thursday, as has been alluded to in the statement of my distinguished Armenian colleague, adding that a composite drawing of the suspect has been released by the police based on eyewitness testimony.

I would also like take this opportunity to highlight yet another, somewhat contrasting incident which occurred in Istanbul's Beşiktaş district in October 2011, where a Turkish woman of Armenian descent was assaulted by a taxi driver after a discussion on religion. The suspect afterwards fled the scene but was later apprehended and interrogated by law enforcement authorities as far away as the province of Niğde, in central Anatolia. The inquiry into this case is ongoing. I mention this example just to show that the utmost care and attention is being given in order to investigate and bring to justice possible perpetrators of hate crimes.

We are of course deeply distressed and saddened by the recent violent crimes regardless of their motivation. On the other hand, while we can understand the interest shown by the distinguished colleague from Armenia in these incidents, let me assure him that investigations have been launched in a timely and serious manner, and we will of course inform the Permanent Council of any developments with regard to this issue.

My distinguished Armenian colleague also referred to the ongoing legal proceedings on different cases and it would be advisable for all of us to wait on the results of these legal processes and not to politicize them.

Thank you.