



STATEMENT BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY
AMBASSADOR TACAN ILDEM
ON THE VERDICT IN THE CASE OF THE MURDER OF THE
JOURNALIST MR. HRANT DINK
899th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
26 JANUARY 2012

I thank my Armenian colleague for bringing this important matter to the Permanent Council's attention.

The late journalist Hrant Dink was killed in Istanbul on 19 January 2007. Thousands of Turks took to the streets and strongly condemned this brutal act and tragic murder.

The suspect, Ogün Samast, was apprehended by police right after the murder and prosecuted under arrest all through the criminal proceedings. The suspect was found guilty for murdering late Mr. Dink and sentenced to 21 years and 6 months in jail by the court on 25 July 2011. The other suspect, Yasin Hayal, was found guilty for soliciting the murder of late Dink and sentenced to life in prison on 17 January 2012. Meanwhile, 6 officials in the Command of Gendarmerie were punished for failure to perform proper conduct of work.

The case is pending before the Court of Appeal and therefore the verdicts have not become final yet. Statements made at the highest level before and following the announcement of the court decision reflect the importance the Turkish Government attaches to this case.

Given the continuing process of the trials, it would be premature to prejudge the work of the judiciary. Furthermore, it would not be appropriate to make attempts to politicize this matter at this stage.

Thank you.