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The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his capacity as Depositary of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963) and has the honour to bring to the attention of the latter the following violations by the Kingdom of the Netherlands of the said Conventions:

I. On 11 March 2017, at 7 pm local time, H.E. Ms. Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya, Minister of Family and Social Policies of the Republic of Turkey was barred by the Dutch law enforcement authorities from accessing the Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in Rotterdam where the Minister was scheduled to meet Turkish citizens in the Netherlands as well as with the Consul General. The passports of the Minister and of the other members of the delegation were confiscated by the Dutch police.

On the same day, the Dutch police, resorting to disproportionate use of force, intervened in the vehicle belonging to the Embassy of Turkey in the Hague carrying the Minister. The Minister, holder of a diplomatic passport, has been forcibly led by the Dutch police to a police station in the town of Nijmegen near the border between the Netherlands and Germany, where she has been detained in the police station for approximately 90 minutes, after which she has been forcibly driven to the German border by the Dutch police. Throughout her journey, the Minister has been prevented from contacting any Turkish diplomatic or consular representative.

II. The Consul General of Turkey in Rotterdam as well as other personnel of the Consulate have been barred from exiting the premises of the Consulate to greet the Minister.

These actions are in contravention of diplomatic courtesy as well as the fundamental principles of international customary law, and constitute a violation of articles 5 and 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations relating to the facilitation of the exercise of consular functions.

**Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York**

III. The Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Turkey in the Hague, the Consul General of Turkey in Deventer and two administrative and technical officers have been subjected to forced body searches and brought to a police station in Rotterdam by the Dutch police.

Despite the intervention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, the Chargé d'affaires has been detained in an individual cell for approximately one hour, the Consul General in Deventer for forty minutes and the administrative and technical officers for two hours, during which all their belongings were confiscated. These detentions in individual cells as well as the restrictions of the freedom of movement represent flagrant violations of article 22, 26, 29, and 37 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and articles 5, 34, 36, 40, 41 and 43 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations kindly requests the inclusion of the aforementioned violations in the report to be published during the 73rd Session of the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/145 of 13 December 2016 on "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives". The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations further requests the circulation of the present letter to all States, as soon as possible, in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/145.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 14 March 2017

