



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Twenty-second session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAP), a non-governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 February 2013]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## **Turkey – France: extrajudicial killings in the context of a persistent situation of widespread violations of fundamental freedoms and rights**

The Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAP) calls on the Human Rights Council's attention to the brutal assassination of three Kurdish women in Paris (France) on 9 January 2013. The triple execution-style homicide of Mrs. Sakine Cansiz, a well-known political activist, Mrs. Leyla Söylemez and Mrs. Fidan Dogan, human rights defenders, were carried out by a silenced gun at the office of the Kurdistan Information Office in broad daylight. According to information revealed by the autopsy investigation all three victims had bullet wounds to their head and the crime scene clearly indicated an extrajudicial execution with political motives.

The politically motivated assassination is to be placed in the context of the very long on-going conflict between the Turkish government and the Kurdish minority, due to the persistent violation of the fundamental civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of the Kurdish minority.

The killings come at time when the Government of Turkey and the Kurdistan Workers Party have begun peace negotiations to end the three decade long conflict. The assassinations were an assault aimed to sabotage the current negotiations in Turkey. In light of this, a thorough and impartial judicial procedure is crucial for the peace process as a whole.

MRAP calls upon:

- the French authorities to continue prompt and thorough criminal investigation in an open and transparent manner, to mete out justice to these clearly political motivated killings;
- the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to follow this case in order to insure that the findings will be disclosed;
- the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to examine this case of extrajudicial execution according to the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions stipulated in ECOSOC resolution 1989/65;
- the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression to monitor the politically motivated restrictions imposed on the Kurdish minority, particularly when it comes to minority rights and to follow closely the judicial proceedings of dozens of Kurdish journalists who have to face a collective politically motivated trial;
- the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to monitor and document the restrictions imposed on the very fundamental rights of any political, social or cultural group belonging to the Kurdish minority;
- the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to monitor closely and document the violations of the fundamental rights of the Kurdish human rights defenders in Turkey;
- the Independent Expert on minority issues to monitor and document the persistent, widespread and grave violations of the fundamental freedoms and rights of the Kurdish minority in Turkey and to follow the negotiation process that resumed in Turkey.