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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND
SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION
UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Bossuyt and Ms. Daes: draft resolution

1996/... Situation of human rights in Turkey

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of
Minorities,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,
the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on
Human Rights and the other relevant international instruments pertaining to
human rights and international humanitarian law,

Preoccupied by:

(a) The information noting the persistence of many cases of
extrajudicial execution, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and
torture, attributable to the Turkish armed forces;

(b) The death of 12 prisoners following a hunger strike undertaken in
order to obtain better conditions in Turkish prisons;

(c) The renewed outbreak of attacks on the freedom of opinion and expression, specifically by the banning of political parties, publications and newspapers, as well as by the assassination or the sentencing to terms of imprisonment of journalists, intellectuals and members of the Grand National Assembly, on the grounds of their political opinions;

(d) The human rights violations committed in the context of the military operations conducted by the Turkish armed forces against Kurdish civilian populations of the south-east of Turkey, particularly by the large-scale destruction of villages, the displacement of several million persons in that region and the humanitarian consequences arising therefrom,

Noting with concern the destruction of villages and the flight of the populations in consequence of the invasion and the incursion of Turkish armed forces in Iraqi Kurdistan or the bombing raids carried out by them, and the maintenance of a zone not accessible to the Iraqi population,

Also noting with concern the restrictions imposed on the Kurdish population of Iraq in respect of humanitarian aid, in violation of Security Council resolution 688 (1991), of 5 April 1991,

1. Condemns the human rights violations and, in particular, the acts of torture, the arbitrary detentions, the summary or arbitrary executions and the enforced disappearances attributable to the armed forces;

2. Regrets that the military actions conducted in the south-east of Turkey and in Iraqi Kurdistan by the Turkish armed forces continue to cause civilian casualties and have brought about the destruction of several thousand villages;

3. Reminds the parties to the conflict of their obligations under common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, concerning the protection of civilians in armed conflicts not of an international character;

4. Urges the Government of Turkey to ensure respect for the freedom of opinion and expression, and in particular that of intellectuals, journalists and members of the Grand National Assembly;

5. Requests the Turkish Government to invite the Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out a mission in Turkey;

6. Decides to continue to examine the situation of human rights in Turkey at its forty-ninth session.
