

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 21 November 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to you with regard to the latest developments in Syria.

Since 2011, Turkey has been seriously exposed to the risks and threats emanating from the crisis in Syria, which is the result of the Syrian regime's violent oppression of the legitimate and democratic aspirations of the Syrian people.

We are gravely concerned by the most recent bombing of and land offensive against the Turkmen villages in the Bayır Bucak Turkmen area near Turkmendağı (Jabal al-Turkman) in the north-west of Syria, which is in the immediate vicinity of Turkey's Yayladağı border crossing.

The ongoing intense aerial bombardment, which reportedly included the use of cluster bombs by the Russian air forces, and the land offensive by the Syrian regime forces, supported by Hizbullah militias, have caused heavy civilian casualties.

These attacks have triggered a new influx of 10,000 people towards the Turkish border. Two thousand of them already entered Turkey.

These deplorable actions targeting civilians can in no way be justified under the pretext of combating terrorism, since the area is void of terrorist groups, such as Daesh, Al-Nusrah Front and all other groups associated with Al-Qaida.

The continuing grave violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the most recent offensive, are unacceptable and bound to further deepen the crisis in Syria.

In view of the above, Turkey calls upon the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the United Nations agencies to fully assume their responsibilities without further delay, to take all necessary measures to prevent the targeting of civilians.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be urgently brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Y. Halit Çevik
Permanent Representative

