



***Permanent Representation
of Turkey
to the Council of Europe***

Strasbourg, 19 October 2015

Dear Director,

Concerning the alerts issued by the Council of Europe's "Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists" on the list enclosed herewith, submitted by the European Federation of Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists, the Association of European Journalist and the Reporters Without Borders, I am transmitting at annex the responses of the Turkish Government concerning 15 submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Erdoğan İşcan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Encl.:

- List of alerts
- Information Notes (15)

Mr. Matjaž Gruden
Director
Directorate of Policy Planning
The Council of Europe

14 Sep 2015 - Form concerning Dutch journalist Frederike Geerdink submitted by EFJ/IFJ under “Dutch Journalist Frederike Geerdink Deported by Turkey”

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey

On 5th of September 2015, 32 people who claimed to act as human shields for the PKK terrorist organization, with a view to preventing possible counter terrorism operations, in the Dağlıca-Kepre area in Hakkari were taken into custody. It was established that Dutch national Frederike Hanneke Geerdink was among this group.

Special Security zones are set up provisionally to isolate armed terrorists and prevent civilian casualties and their declaration are made public by the pertinent Governorship. The fact that the PKK terrorists killed 16 soldiers in an area nearby the very next day after the declaration of the special security zone, attests to the security measures’ necessity.

Under Turkish law, all civilians are strictly prohibited from entering designated special security zones which are established in accordance with the Law on Prohibited Military Zones and Security Zones (No. 2565).

In their statements, those 32 people taken into custody, including Ms. Geerdink, said that they were protecting PKK militants in the area, which had been declared as a special security zone by the Hakkari Governorship due to the operations countering PKK terrorists. Ms. Geerdink stated that she had been with the group for two days before being taken into custody.

Following the completion of the judicial and the administrative process, she was released from detention and taken to the airport to ensure her safe return.