



Security Council

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Letter dated 3 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the references to my country in the statement of the Permanent Representative of Iraq at the Security Council meeting held on 24 November 2020 on the situation concerning Iraq, I would like to bring to your attention the following.

The Government of Iraq has the obligation under international law as well as the Iraqi Constitution to eliminate the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and other terrorist organizations' presence within its borders and prevent the use of its territories to launch terrorist attacks against Turkey. However, Iraqi authorities have not been able to fulfil this obligation so far.

Turkey has repeatedly expressed its readiness to cooperate with the Iraqi authorities to confront the PKK terrorist organization. However, in the absence of Iraq's ability to deal with the presence of terrorists in its own territory who are infiltrating into Turkey to conduct terrorist attacks, I would like to emphasize once again that Turkey is obliged to take all appropriate measures against the terrorist threats to its security, emanating from Iraq. We firmly reject any criticism towards Turkey for exercising its inherent right of self-defence, as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and acting within the context of responsibility attributed by relevant Security Council resolutions to United Nations Member States in the fight against terrorism.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu
Permanent Representative

