

2008/Turkuno DT/9988

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to the Letter's Note No:LA/COD/4 dated 15 December 2006 concerning the General Assembly resolution 61/31 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives" has the honour to report the following:

1. On 10 December 2007 two cars belonging to the personnel of the Turkish Embassy and Consulate General in Athens were set on fire simultaneously. Despite the reports of the local police authorities describing the incidents as terror acts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece has qualified the incidents merely as "ordinary crime". The request of the Turkish authorities for the compensation of the damages caused by the said incidents is yet to be responded by the Greek authorities. Furthermore, in spite of the requests of the Turkish Embassy that demonstrators be kept at a distance from the Embassy, Greek police in some cases want to negotiate with the officials of the Turkish Embassy so that the demonstrators can approach the entrance of the Embassy building in order to post their declarations on the door.

2. On 21 February 2008, in the course of the demonstrations encouraged by certain officials, against the declaration of independence of Kosovo, stones and bricks were thrown at the Turkish Embassy in Belgrade and the Embassy building was extensively damaged. During the protests, unfortunately Turkish flag was also pulled down and burnt. However, officials from the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have expressed regret over the incident. They have also expressed that all necessary measures aimed at ensuring the safety and security of the Embassies in Belgrade will be taken and damages of the Embassy building will be compensated.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

3. On 17 March 2008 plastic bags filled with permanent paint were thrown by two persons at the Turkish Embassy in Vienna. The recordings of the security cameras revealed that the Austrian police, working on 24 hours basis for the protection of the Turkish Embassy, failed to make necessary intervention. The perpetrators of the abovementioned incident, as well as those responsible for the molotov cocktail attack of 2 January 2008 targeting the Turkish Consulate in Bregenz have not been apprehended to date. It should be noted that following these attacks the security level of the Turkish missions in Austria was temporarily raised, but soon after lowered to its previous level. It should further be noted that no measures by the local authorities are taken for the protection of the chancelleries of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UN and OSCE in Vienna.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations wishes also to underline that since the last report, no serious violation has occurred in the protection and security provided to the diplomatic and consular missions and their representatives in Turkey. This is due to the prompt and effective analysis of the reports of threat and swift adoption of all preventive measures.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of its highest consideration.

