

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



**STATEMENT**  
by  
**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY**  
**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**6 November 2014, New York**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express our appreciation for the **Vice-Chair** of the Special Committee **H.E. Mr. Haniff**, and to **Mr. Simonovic, Assistant Secretary-General** for Human Rights, for their remarks.

I would like to reiterate Turkey's strong and longstanding commitment to the establishment of a **peaceful, stable, secure and democratic environment respectful of fundamental human rights and freedoms** in the region.

With this understanding, as on several previous occasions, during our remarks at this Committee, yesterday, we mentioned that **blockades, ongoing settlement activities, settler violence, arrests, forced displacements, house demolitions, excessive use of force against civilians, disrespectful and illegal acts targeting the Holy Sites, military raids and incursions** should cease.

In this respect, **we strongly condemn** yesterday's incursion of Israeli extremists including a group of MPs into the Haram al-Sharif, and subsequent trampling by the Israeli police on the spiritual value and the sentiments that the Al-Aqsa Mosque embodies.

This is a clear **violation** of Haram al-Sharif's **sanctity**. Israel has thus added a **new and much more serious dimension** to its provocations against the Palestinians.

Israel's flagrant practices violating recklessly **fundamental human rights, particularly freedom of worship and belief of Muslims** at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the sanctity of Haram Al-Sharif are unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.