



Permanent Mission
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Office of the United Nations and
to the other International Organizations
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
20th Session of the UPR Working Group
Geneva, 27.01.2015**

**German questions and recommendations to
Turkey**

German National Statement

Mr. President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Turkey to the UPR. We note with appreciation recent positive developments in the field of freedom of religion and belief, including with regard to restitution of properties to religious groups.

However, we are concerned by recent cases of restriction of the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, including on the internet.

We would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. Guarantee full implementation of all European Court of Human Rights rulings within an adequate time frame.
2. Guarantee freedom of assembly and association, including by protecting protestors from ill-treatment and by investigating allegations of abuse by officials promptly, thoroughly and independently.
3. Adopt laws that recognize and guarantee the right to conscientious objection to military service, ensuring that any genuinely civilian alternative is not punitive in length.
4. Implement Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights and abolish all legal or other restrictions for the release of sick or terminally sick inmates.
5. Bring the internet law in line with international standards, reflecting the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights on the rights to freedom of expression and privacy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Questions submitted in advance by Germany:

1. In view of recent judgments by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) with regard to the rights of Alevis, what measures is the State of Turkey taking to ensure the implementation of ECHR judgments?
2. In view of recent positive developments toward religious groups in Turkey, i.e. the restitution of numerous properties, among others to Mor Gabriel, the opening of a Greek Orthodox secondary school in Gökceada or the announcement by Prime Minister Davutoglu permitting the construction of a new church for the Turkish Syriac community, when will the State of Turkey grant the right to acquire legal personality to religious or belief communities?
3. In light of the recently passed 7th judicial package what measures is the State of Turkey taking to protect and promote the freedom of assembly, including protecting protestors from being subjected to ill-treatment or excessive use of force by police authorities? How will the State of Turkey ensure that its fight against the so called "parallel state" will remain transparent and within the limits of the Turkish constitutional rights and freedoms?
4. What measures is the State of Turkey taking in line with Article 3 of ECHR to protect the right to health and right to release of hundreds of sick and terminally ill inmates?
5. What measures is the State of Turkey taking in order to implement the concluding observations of the UN Human Rights Committee and the verdicts of the ECHR with regard to conscientious objection?
6. Given the reports by Freedom House ("Press: not free") and Reporters without borders, where Turkey ranks 154: Which concrete steps does the Turkish Republic want to take in order to guarantee independence and freedom of media?

