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| Description: Description: Description: C:\Users\amessent\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\MN1HAVZZ\Brand NZ-no agency High Res.jpg | **Human Rights Council**  **35th session of the Universal Periodic Review**  **Republic of Turkey**  **Delivered by Permanent Representative Jillian Dempster**  **28 January 2020** |

Thank you Madam President

New Zealand **commends** the Republic of Turkey for itsgenerous hosting of over 3.6 million Syrian refugees and **acknowledges** its commitment to the 16 UN human rights instruments to which it is a signatory.

New Zealand notes the lifting of the State of Emergency in Turkey in July 2018, but remains concerned that some of the restrictions put in place following the unfortunate 2016 coup attempt can be used to silence legitimate political dissent.

We **recommend** that Turkey:

* Take steps to encourage freedom of expression, including freedom of the press, association and peaceful assembly and to align its legislation in this respect with its obligations and commitments under relevant international law;
* Ensure that human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists are not subjected to intimidation or arbitrary arrest in undertaking their work;
* Ensure full compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law by its forces.

Thank you.