**PRESS RELEASE OF THE TURKISH LAW PLATFORM ON NETHERLANDS’ ANTI DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS**

We as the Turkish Law Platform do not accept the scandalous acts of Dutch administration to the Ministers of the Republic of Turkey who have diplomatic immunity.

Netherlands has performed a great diplomatic scandal that has never been seen in the world by preventing the Ministers of the Republic of Turkey, which the Netherlands adopted as a “friendly and allied nation”, from entering the Consulate building.

The process started with the canceling of the trip of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and the tension rose with the scandalous actions the Minister of Family and Social Policy Mrs. Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya faced in Rotterdam on the evening of March 11th. These whole events could not accommodate with international law, diplomatic practices and protocols.

The actions imposed upon Minister of Foreign Affairs, which has diplomatic immunity under international law, also implies a clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, which is international customary law. According to the status of diplomatic immunity, the Minister of Republic of Turkey, who must be under the protection of the Dutch government against all danger and attack, was prevented from reaching the Consulate General of Turkey by violating both the security and freedom itself by Dutch authorities; and even further deported forcibly by state police to the border of German.

The Netherlands has shown to the whole world that it disregards the freedom of expression and assembly of its citizens, as well it disproportionately violates the international conventions imposed by the Dutch police against the Turkish citizens who protested this illegality peacefully.

With these latest actions, it has shown that the discourses of extremist right-wing parties in Europe which are the enemy of Islam and immigrant is beginning to centralized and as a result We as the Turkish Law Platform are very concerned about the protection of human rights in Europe. Governments, which must prevent currents such as discrimination, racism and anti-Islamism, will do nothing other than polarize societies by fostering discrimination and racism by advancing in the same direction with their actions and practices.

We expect an apology from Dutch government for everything that happened on March 11, 2007 and hope them to get rid of this abdication of reason as soon as possible. If these insulting and hostile attitudes towards senior diplomats spread to the people there will be no point of return.

We also invite all European countries, especially the Netherlands, to renounce the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights, adopted on 4 November 1950. The rights of persons to travel and assembly and freedom of expression cannot be prevented by any general or local practices.

This behavior of the Dutch administration has been a black spot on the history of Dutch democracy and diplomacy, which has not been well suited to centuries of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It is clear that the hostile attitudes displayed are far from responsibility and jeopardize friendly relations between the two countries. The Netherlands, as our friend and allied, is completely embarrassed and responsible for this unacceptable and dangerous actions that we are exposed to in our diplomatic relations. We condemn this dismissive behavior and the exclusionary mentality that reminds the whole world of a dark and repressive mentality that has caused great sorrows.

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