

**BM İNSAN HAKLARI KONSEYİ 46. OTURUMU YÜKSEK DÜZEYLİ BÖLÜMÜNDE YAYINLANACAK VIDEO MESAJI
(22 ŞUBAT 2021 HAFTASI) (7 dk)**

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

-We left behind a historically difficult year. **COVID-19** showed **how vulnerable and interdependent** we are.

-We need a renewed commitment to **multilateralism**.

-And a **human rights-based approach** is essential in responding to the pandemic.

-We should give attention to the needs of **vulnerable groups**, including women, children, elderly, migrants, refugees, and persons deprived of their liberty.

-**Equitable and affordable access** to vaccines, medicines and medical equipment is essential.

-These are the principles behind our **global assistance efforts** and our provision of **free healthcare to all** at home.

-Indeed, we assisted **157** countries and **12** international organizations in their efforts against the pandemic.

-And in Turkey, we provide **free treatment and vaccination** for COVID-19 to all, including migrants and refugees.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

-The promotion and protection of human rights remain a **top priority** for our Government.

-Over the last two decades, we have undertaken **significant reforms**.

-Obviously, there is always **room for improvement**.

-Despite threats by multiple terror organizations, our commitment to human rights, democracy and rule of law remains firm

-**Judicial Reform Strategy** and the **3 legislative amendment packages** adopted last year, as well as the **Human Rights Action Plan** ~~we plan~~ to be announced d soon are concrete examples.

Excellencies,

Let me share our views on some **major issues** where human rights and dignity are at stake:

—**Xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia and hate speech** are on the rise.

-The pandemic further increased these dangerous trends.

-Offensive publications and hate speech against **Islam and Muslims** insult nearly two~~more than a~~ billion believers around the world.

-Yes, freedom of speech is key to any democracy. But this freedom does not give the right to **insult the sacred values of others**.

-Unless we promote a **culture of living together**, we risk damaging our common **democratic values and social cohesion**.

—**Terrorism** remains one of the leading global threats targeting human lives.

-Just recently **PKK** terrorist organization murdered **13 innocent lives** in northern Iraq and the **world is silent again**.

-Without **international solidarity** and with the current **double standards**, we cannot eradicate this threat.

-Having lost innocent lives to various terror groups, including the **PKK, YPG, DEASH and FETO**, we know well that terror has no specific ideology.

—In **Syria**, people continue to suffer from the ongoing **military offensives by regime forces and terrorist attacks**.

-In addition to **3.7 million** Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey, we contribute directly to the safety and well-being of **5 million** civilians in northern Syria.

-Turkey is the **only corridor for UN cross-border humanitarian aid** to Syria. And even this **corridor is under attack**. It is essential to maintain this assistance.

—As the **largest refugee hosting country** in the world, we uphold our international obligations as well as the human rights and dignity of the people we are hosting.

-However, we are deeply concerned by the persistent practice of **pushbacks** occurring before the eyes of the **EU and FRONTEX**.

—**Israel** continues to act with absolute impunity in the **occupied Palestinian territories**.

-The inhumane blockade in **Gaza** and expansion of illegal settlements by Israel remain a violation of human rights.

-Turkey will continue to support the legitimate quest of Palestinians for an **independent and sovereign State of Palestine**, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

—In **Libya**, each day new mass graves are discovered in **Tarhuna**. **Human Rights Council** should contribute to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

—Although they made every effort towards a settlement, the **Turkish Cypriots** continue to suffer inhumane embargoes and unjust isolation.

-Despite these pressures, the Turkish Cypriots have their state, which ~~thrives~~ functions as a **vibrant democracy**.

—In **Nagorno-Karabakh**, there is now a historic opportunity for a sustainable peace.

-We will continue to support initiatives for **peace and prosperity** in the South Caucasus based on **regional ownership**.

-We hope that Armenia chooses to be a partner of peace. **Turkey will reciprocate any positive steps taken by Armenia**.

-We will also continue to support the peaceful resolution of the **Abkhazia and South Ossetia** conflicts while ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia.

—Turkey supports **Ukraine's** territorial integrity, including Crimea. We will continue to support **Crimean Tatars'** aspirations to live freely and safely in their historical homeland.

—Turkey closely follows the human rights situation in the **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region**. The findings of the UN and other international **reports are cause for concern**. We share our concerns and expectations on the matter with the Chinese authorities. We **expect transparency** on this issue.

-While respecting **China's sovereignty and territorial integrity**, Turkey underlines the importance of protecting human rights of **Uyghur Turks** and other Muslims.

-We continue to follow the developments regarding the possible **visit of the High Commissioner's team** to the region.

-Upon China's invitation, we will also send our **own national team** to visit the region.

—We reiterate our call to the Indian Government to ease the current restrictions in **Jammu-Kashmir**.

-We wish for the resolution of the issue through peaceful means on the basis of relevant **UN resolutions** and the legitimate **expectations of the people** of Jammu-Kashmir.

—Human rights violations in **Myanmar**, especially crimes committed against Rohingya, remain a source of ~~serious~~ concern.

-We also **condemn the military takeover of the Government** by the Myanmar Armed Forces.

Madam President,

-Turkey will continue to engage with the Council for the protection and promotion of human rights for all. Thank you.