

Universal Periodic Review – 21st Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Turkey

27 January 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Turkey and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland notes with great concern that freedom of expression has been increasingly curtailed in Turkey, leading to censorship, particularly on social media and independent reporting, and imprisonment of journalists. Ireland **recommends** that Turkey repeal those provisions of the Criminal Code which unfairly limit freedom of expression, including Articles 301, 318, 215, and 125, to bring the law in line with international standards on freedom of expression.

Ireland remains gravely concerned about measures taken in Turkey which curb civil society activism and peaceful assembly, including reports of excessive use of force to disperse peaceful demonstrations. Ireland **recommends** that Turkey explicitly recognise the right to peaceful assembly by redrafting the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations to remove provisions that criminalise peaceful participation in demonstrations.