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Armenian National Committee of America  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

November 11, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I am writing to request that the Department of State release any and all documents, investigations, findings or other information related to reports - conveyed by the Metropolitan Police Department, to the Bureau of Diplomatic Security - regarding the use of an “unknown aerosol” by Turkish President Recep Erdogan’s security detail against protesters at Washington, DC’s Sheridan Circle on May 16, 2017.

I have, for your reference, attached a declassified internal email from the Diplomatic Security Command Center, dated May 17, 2017 (released under the Freedom of Information Act) which reports that: “MPD officers stated that Turkish security officers used some sort of unknown aerosol on the protestors which they are investigating further.”

As a participant in the protest that was attacked by President Erdogan’s security detail, I join with my fellow citizens in looking to our government to enforce a zero-tolerance policy against foreign violence targeting Americans expressing our First Amendment Freedoms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aram Hamparian".

Aram Hamparian  
Executive Director

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**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: (SBU//LES) DS SSA (b) Sit-Rep from FD-17-182 Turkish FM Incident 05/16/2017 - 05/17/2017  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:50:34 AM

(b) statement.

**From:** DS Command Center <DSCommandCenter@state.gov>

**Date:** May 17, 2017 at 02:50:24 EDT

**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Miller, Bill A <MillerBA2@state.gov>, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

[Redacted] Schurman, Christian J <SchurmanCJ2@state.gov>, DS Command Center <DSCommandCenter@state.gov>

**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Subject:** (SBU//LES) DS SSA (b) Sit-Rep from FD-17-182 Turkish FM Incident 05/16/2017 - 05/17/2017

*ALCON:*

*The DS Command Center is sharing the following event information for your situational awareness. Please contact the DS Command Center directly for any follow-up requests for information.*

The following is a general Situation Report (SitRep) from Office of Protection (P), Dignitary Protection Division (DP), Agent-in-Charge (AIC) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who served as the AIC for the visit of the Republic of Turkey's, Foreign Minister (FM) Mevlut Çavusoglu who visited Washington, DC along with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on May 15-16, 2017. It is not intended to be an exhaustive report, but a general outline of activity as observed by the AIC. A full and comprehensive incident report is forthcoming.

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The Republic of Turkey's, Foreign Minister (FM), Mevlut Çavusoglu, and accompanying delegation arrived at Joint Base Andrews (JBA) on Monday, May 15, 2017 at approximately 1915 hrs. The DS detail had only three vehicles amongst dozens of other vehicles in the lengthy U.S. Secret Service (USSS) motorcade. Shortly prior to wheels down as the DS Detail vehicles waited on the tarmac, I suddenly heard someone shouting extremely loudly near the DS Limousine. As I looked over to the left, I observed what appeared to be a



member of the Turkish delegation screaming at 5-10 other members of the Turkish delegation and that his face was about a half inch from the face of one gentleman. Fearing a possible altercation or assault on the tarmac, I immediately exited the limousine and yelled out asking the Turkish official what was going on. I quickly discovered that this was a Turkish security officer who was screaming at his fellow Turkish security officers. As I continued to approach the group, a couple of them said to me that it was "ok" as this was the Turkish Presidential Security Detail Leader who was berating his team. I stated that this behavior was not ok, and I asked the Detail Leader to please speak with me on the side. The Turkish Presidential Detail Leader refused to speak with me privately and began to walk away; however, he lingered long enough for me to tell him that it was unacceptable behavior for him to scream publically at his team during what is supposed to be a diplomatic visit. The Turkish Presidential Detail Leader departed my immediate area without further incident.

On Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at approximately 10:00 – 10:30 am, the FM decided to do a walking move from his hotel (St. Regis Hotel, 923 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC) past the Blair House to Peet's Coffee shop to have a coffee and conversation with the Turkish Energy Minister. Upon arrival at the coffee shop, the DS Shift Leader, SA (b) (6), (b) (7), reported to me that during the walk one of the Turkish FM security officers had noticed someone taking video footage of the FM and DS detail as we walked along 16<sup>th</sup> Street, so the Turkish security officer grabbed the man by the arm and told him that he must stop filming immediately. I discreetly asked the Turkish security officer to speak with me on the side and explained to him and one of his Turkish colleagues that in the United States, it is inappropriate for police or other law enforcement officers to physically intervene with members of the public who videotape protective details or other law enforcement actions, unless there is some imminent danger, and that I would not expect a similar occurrence during the remainder of the visit. The Turkish officers denied that he had actually touched the man, but agreed with my request.

Later on Tuesday May 16, at approximately 4:00 – 4:30 pm, the DS detail was on a vehicle move with the FM to the Turkish Ambassador's residence located off Sheridan Circle, at 1606 23rd Street, DS Lead Advance Agent (b) (6), (b) (7) informed the detail over the radio that there were dozens of protesters in the vicinity of the residence and that a fight had broken out there. SA (b) (6), (b) (7) recommended that we delay our imminent arrival. As we rounded Sheridan Circle, the Limo Driver, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), and I looked over and could see what appeared to be dozens of protesters fighting and some of them throwing items such as water bottles. I immediately gave the motorcade the command, "abort, abort, abort" and we continued driving to the right up Massachusetts Avenue. We continued a few blocks and made a right turn through a neighborhood, delaying our arrival until police (MPD and USSS UD) could restore order. I explained the situation directly to the FM who seemed grateful for our actions. After 15 – 20 minutes, SA (b) (6), (b) (7) advised the detail that we could safely arrive at the Ambassador's Residence. After arrival, I learned from USSS agents and police on site that the melee had been provoked by Turkish security officers who upon seeing the protesters had run directly into the crowd to physically engage them, and that one Turkish security officer had punched a MPD officer directly in the nose causing massive blood flow, and other MPD officers were also assaulted. MPD officers stated that Turkish security officers used some sort of unknown aerosol on the protesters which they are investigating further. Several protesters were transported to George Washington University Hospital. MPD arrested one Turkish man who was originally thought to have been a member of the Turkish traveling delegation, however, Turkish protocol officers later identified him as a Turkish doctor from New York. DS Protective Liaison (PL) SA (b) (6), (b) (7) responded to the Ambassador's Residence to liaise with police and agents regarding the ongoing protest. MPD officers



informed DS detail agents that they were wearing body cameras, the footage of which might identify which Turkish security officers had assaulted protesters or police officers, and if so, MPD might arrest them. I informed the DS Command Center (DSCC) and other DS Principals at 5:11 pm that MPD and USSS UD had the situation under control, however, the protests were ongoing with approximately 100 – 150 protesters, and that the FM and all DS agents were safe and secure.

Later on Tuesday May 16, at approximately 6:00 – 6:15 pm, the DS detail proceeded on a joint vehicle move with the USSS from the Ambassador's Residence to the Embassy of Turkey located nearby at 2525 Massachusetts Ave, NW. Just prior to departure, I asked the (b) (7)(E) SA (b) (6), (b) (7) to get an update from our Site Advance Agent, (b) (6), regarding the possibility of protesters near the Embassy of Turkey. SA (b) (6), (b) (7) advised that she could see a few protesters, however, the police appeared to have appropriate control. As we arrived, approximately 200 meters from the entrance of the Embassy, the motorcade came to a complete stop due to the length of the large USSS motorcade and our placement near the rear. In addition, we suddenly noticed dozens more protesters in the street and on the sidewalks adjacent to us with police trying to gain control. As the motorcade vehicles could not move further forward and fearing for the safety of the FM and DS detail agents if we engaged in a walking move, I directed the detail that the FM would hold in the armored limousine, and I explained to the FM our course of action. As we waited, I observed not only police in the streets, but also Turkish security officers running down Massachusetts Ave in an effort to physically engage with protesters once again. Finally after about 7 – 10 minutes holding in the DS Limo, Adv Agent (b) (6) and SL (b) (6), advised that we could safely walk the FM down the left side of the street and police had protesters cordoned off on the right side of the street. I then gave the command to the detail for a 200 meter walking move to the Embassy with the FM in a (b) (7)(E). We moved the FM safely inside the Embassy without incident. Shortly after arrival, SL (b) (6), and Police Lead SA (b) (6), informed me that as we were holding in the armored limousine in the street, SA (b) (6), realized that the Turkish FM Detail Leader who was riding in his GOV was exiting the vehicle, ostensibly to walk around and possibly engage the protesters. Hence, SA (b) (6), yelled out to the Turkish FM Detail Leader that he should not/not get out of the car, however, the Turkish FM Detail Leader ignored his directive and walked down the street. SA (b) (6), advised me that he did not feel comfortable transporting a foreign security officer that refused to heed his advice. I immediately spoke to the Turkish FM Detail Leader and his Assistant Detail Leader and advised them of my decision that the Turkish FM Detail Leader could no longer ride in any DS vehicles due to his failure to heed the advice of a DS agent and possibly further provoking already irate protesters. I advised that he would have to find alternate transportation to JBA for the final departure in one of the many Embassy vehicles in the motorcade. They argued with me for a few minutes, however, departed my presence without incident.

Limo Driver SA (b) (6), subsequently informed me that the Turkish FM Detail Leader and his Assistant Detail Leader departed the Embassy and proceeded in the street to the DS Limo where they asked him to open the trunk to pull out some of the FM's luggage. SA (b) (6), related to me that as he opened the trunk, the Turkish officers began to grab everything present including the DS Med and Chem-Bio bags, for example, so SA (b) (6), advised them to please stop and that he would pull out the appropriate bags. SA (b) (6), reported to me that as he attempted to pull out the FM's luggage, one of the Turkish officers slapped his hand. SA (b) (6), ignored the assault and allowed the Turkish security officers to depart with the FM's luggage. (Note: I was not aware contemporaneously of the removal of the



FM's luggage from the trunk of the DS Limo, however, upon being informed, I posited that the Turkish FM Detail Leader had made a decision at that point that the FM would not ride in the DS Limo for the final move to JBA due to my decision not to allow the Turkish FM Detail Leader to ride in the DS (b)(7)(E). A few minutes later, (b)(7)(E), SA (b)(6), (b)(7)(E), called me on the radio asking if he could send an agent to relieve me, as he needed my assistance outside for an incident that might require him to make an arrest. I agreed, and began to walk from the door of the Embassy toward the Embassy front gate when I suddenly saw SA (b)(6), (b)(7)(E), SA (b)(6), and others (possibly USSS) physically struggling with the Turkish FM Detail Leader and his Assistant Detail Leader on the sidewalk. In an instant, the gaggle of officers and agents went down to the ground in a physical altercation. I yelled over to an adjacent MPD officer that the agents needed assistance, and within seconds, 5-10 MPD officers ran over, assisted in subduing and detaining the Turkish security officers for assaulting federal agents and police officers. Within another minute or so, at least 5-7 Turkish Presidential security officers (lead by the Presidential detail leader who had caused the disturbance on the tarmac of JBA) attempted to storm out of the Embassy pedestrian gate to assist their detained colleagues, however, several MPD officers intercepted them and physically restrained them from exiting Embassy property. As I returned to the Embassy door entrance in case the FM might exit, I requested (b)(6), (b)(7)(E) to assist and to again contact PL SA (b)(6), to respond and assist. I contacted DP leadership and (b)(6), (b)(7)(E) informed DSCC. Minutes later SA (b)(6), responded and began liaison with the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM), State and DS Legal (L) and other entities regarding the possible arrest or possible release of the two Turkish security officers. The FM and Turkish Ambassador to the United States, Serdar Kiliç, eventually exited the Embassy and asked me for an explanation of what had occurred. After my synopsis, Ambassador Kiliç asked me if I could find a way to have the Turkish security officers released by "looking past" what had happened and allowing them to fly back to Turkey as scheduled. I informed Ambassador Kiliç that the appropriate entities were discussing the incident, and the release of the Turkish security officers for subsequent return to Turkey was one of the possibilities. After about an hour and a half, due to SA (b)(6), efforts, the Turkish security officers were released. I informed Ambassador Kiliç of their release, and he thanked me for my efforts. (Note: The names and identifying information of the Turkish FM Detail Leader and his Assistant Detail Leader will be provided in other SitReps submitted by detail agents.)

SA (b)(6), was taken to GW Hospital for observation and subsequently diagnosed with a sprained wrist, some lower back pain, and a swollen lip.

Upon departure from the Embassy, the FM, without informing me, suddenly jumped into one of the Embassy-rented unarmored Mercedes Sprinter Vans and closed the door, rather than ride in the DS Limo. I directed the DS (b)(7)(E) cars to move up several cars in the line to place our vehicles behind the Mercedes Sprinter, and the DS detail followed it to JBA for the final departure of the delegation at approximately 9:30 pm. Just prior to boarding the aircraft, the FM shook my hand and thanked me for our support; however, the FM said that "this was not good" and that he was told by Turkish officials that DS agents were the main cause of the incident. I informed the FM that this was indeed a regrettable incident, however, not one that DS agents bear responsibility for. The FM, Turkish President and delegation boarded two official Turkish aircraft and departed JBA.

Official - SBU (Sensitive-Law Enforcement)

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