

Antalya Deputy Prof. Dr. Yusuf Ziya İRBEÇ made an intervention in The Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013 during the discussions on the Law of Criminal Court and the Draft Law that allows the Amendments to be made on the Law on the Execution of Sentences and Security Measures.

The speech included the following brief points:

(To the government) Mister Minister, You are talking about the crime of terrorism as your red line. However, we cannot see the consistency in its practical applications.

Prime Minister Erdogan is very fond of declaring red lines on regional developments by making statements such as “we cannot remain spectators”. In his speech on 19<sup>th</sup> January Prime Minister Erdogan clearly talked about Syria in this sense.

In terms of the results, “we cannot be spectators” and “we will do whatever is necessary to do” type of rhetoric merely reflect the advertising and propaganda in domestic politics of the Erdogan Administration rather than the impacts of its foreign policy.

Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu - Minister of Foreign Affairs - made a speech in Davos on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 by stating that:

“Turkey wants Syria to confront with its war crimes. People are dying in Syria. How much longer are we going to wait for? International silence kills people.”

In contrast, on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 52 countries including Libya supported the UN Security Council application relevant to the subject but the Erdogan Administration did not support this initiative. This situation clearly shows that the rhetoric contradicts the actions. And this contradiction is clear in the Prime Minister’s stance. In 2004 at the General Assembly of the Council of Europe the Prime Minister announced that Turkey would ratify the Rome Statute and become a party to the International Criminal Court but so far, has not fulfilled his promises.