

RELEASE IN PART B6

**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 12:14 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Response to Turkish Earthquake

Update from frank. Mike hammer working on statement from you too.

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 12:03 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Philip H; Sherman, Wendy R; Mull, Stephen D; Nides, Thomas R; Burns, William J; Hammer, Michael A; Kaidanow, Tina S; Zeya, Uzra S; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Adams, David S; Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Naranjo, Brian R; Wells, Alice G; S\_SpecialAssistants  
**Cc:** SES\_4; Libby, Mark W; Bitter, Rena; Baily, Jess L; Godfrey, Anthony <[REDACTED]>; Treiber, Laird D; Wroblewski, K Andrew; Baily, Jess L; Jaworski, Richard E; Tobey, Laurence E; Darnell, Daria L; Mansour, Amanda J; Kilner, Scott F (Istanbul); Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Grubisha, Thomas J; Wentworth, Mark A; Kim, Yuri J; Densmore, William E  
**Subject:** RE: Response to Turkish Earthquake

B6

+EUR-SE, NSS Godfrey, Treiber, other Ankara, Adana, Istanbul officers:

Recommend a public statement of condolences/concern from SecState +/- WH would be entirely appropriate, obviously deferring to GoT authorities as to details of the disaster.

Laird Treiber is our Incident Manager, and he is sending in a comprehensive report as I write this, following episodic email reporting through various channels incl DS and to Ops Ctr.

We have been in touch w/ MFA, Red Crescent, PM's National Disaster Response Directorate, Chief of TNP, local official + political contacts in Van, to offer condolences and assistance.

We had issued public statement offering condolences and assistance, in Turkish media now.

Scope of disaster not clear; following typical pattern of escalating confirmations of killed/injured + properties destroyed, but these lagging far behind media speculation.

No known AmCit victims; consulate Adana attempting contact w/ (3) three known American families in the area.

Believe (but still confirming) all COM personnel OK; have confirmed that none were to be in the affected area, far from US dip/consular/mil installations.

US Consul had joined US Armenian Archbishop Barsamian + his VIP AmCit del @ reconsecration of newly restored church in Diyarbakir, and dissuaded Archbishop + party from plans to proceed to Van. (I had previously cancelled my own plans to participate w/ US Embassy delegation in Archbishop's planned prayer ceremony @ Akhtemar Church in Van, due to tensions over PKK attacks in region this past week.)

Francis J. Ricciardone  
 US Ambassador  
 Ankara,  
 Republic of Turkey

tel: +90 312 457 7280

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**From:** Gordon, Philip H  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 6:47 PM  
**To:** Sherman, Wendy R; Mull, Stephen D; Nides, Thomas R; Burns, William J; Hammer, Michael A; Kaidanow, Tina S; Zeya, Uzra S; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Adams, David S; Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Naranjo, Brian R; Wells, Alice G; S\_SpecialAssistants  
**Cc:** SES\_4; Libby, Mark W; Bitter, Rena; Ricciardone, Francis J; Baily, Jess L  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Turkish Earthquake

Adding Embassy to this email. I would initially just offer condolences and general willingness to help and then let's see what specifics they and our teams say are needed. I have left message to that effect with Tan.

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**From:** Sherman, Wendy R  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 11:42 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Philip H; Mull, Stephen D; Nides, Thomas R; Burns, William J; Hammer, Michael A; Kaidanow, Tina S; Zeya, Uzra S; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Adams, David S; Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Naranjo, Brian R; Wells, Alice G; S\_SpecialAssistants  
**Cc:** SES\_4; Libby, Mark W; Bitter, Rena  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Turkish Earthquake

Phil,  
 Will do. Would you just like me to offer condolences and see what we can do to help or anything more specific? Can also reach out to Babacan, whom I know well if helpful.  
 Wendy

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**From:** Gordon, Philip H  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 11:37 AM  
**To:** Sherman, Wendy R; Mull, Stephen D; Nides, Thomas R; Burns, William J; Hammer, Michael A; Kaidanow, Tina S; Zeya, Uzra S; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Adams, David S; Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Naranjo, Brian R; Wells, Alice G; S\_SpecialAssistants  
**Cc:** SES\_4; Libby, Mark W; Bitter, Rena  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Turkish Earthquake

Wendy: great if you can call Sinirlioglu. I will call Amb Tan.

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**From:** Sherman, Wendy R  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 10:55 AM  
**To:** Mull, Stephen D; Nides, Thomas R; Burns, William J; Hammer, Michael A; Kaidanow, Tina S; Zeya, Uzra S; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Adams, David S; Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Gordon, Philip H; Naranjo, Brian R; Wells, Alice G; S\_SpecialAssistants  
**Cc:** SES\_4; Libby, Mark W; Bitter, Rena  
**Subject:** Re: Response to Turkish Earthquake

Steve,  
 Happy to reach out to my counterpart if an when helpful or support Embassy in any appropriate way. Tragic situation.  
 Wendy

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**From:** Mull, Stephen D  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 10:52 AM  
**To:** Sherman, Wendy R; Nides, Thomas R; Burns, William J; Hammer, Michael A; Kaidanow, Tina S; Zeya, Uzra S; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Adams, David S; Sullivan, Stephanie S; Abedin, Huma; Mills, Cheryl D; Sullivan, Jacob J; Gordon, Philip H; Naranjo, Brian R; Wells, Alice G; S\_SpecialAssistants  
**Cc:** SES\_4; Libby, Mark W; Bitter, Rena

**Subject:** Response to Turkish Earthquake

You will have seen that there was a very serious earthquake near Van in eastern Turkey this morning, with recent estimates putting it at 7.3 on the Richter scale, and initial reports suggest there are hundreds of fatalities. Embassy Ankara has convened an Emergency Action Committee and formed a command post to monitor the situation and coordinate any USG response. The Embassy has been in touch with the Turks to determine whether they are seeking outside assistance, and OFDA has put the Fairfax and Miami/Dade County search and rescue teams on standby for possible deployment to assist in recovery efforts. Ops Center will update through the day as required.