Police Scotland statement following terrorist attack at Ataturk Airport.

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Deputy Chief Constable Ruaraidh Nicolson QPM has issued a statement to reassure Scottish communities following the terrorist attack at Ataturk Airport.

He said: "The events unfolding at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, Turkey overnight once again demonstrate the indiscriminate manner in which criminal groups attack communities in an attempt to cause division and fear in society. We are shocked by this attack our thoughts are very much with the victims and their families. Police Scotland strongly condemns such atrocious acts of violence.

"I would take this opportunity to reassure Scottish communities that while the threat level for the United Kingdom has been at severe since August 2014, at this time there is no known threat or link between Scotland and these latest events. Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe and whilst we understand that the public will clearly be appalled by these events, I would urge each and every member of our communities to continue to work together in ensuring that no person or group in Scotland feels marginalised or isolated.

"It is an unfortunate reality that Police Forces around the world often witness an increase in Hate Crime in the immediate aftermath of terrorist attacks; however Police Scotland will continue to work in partnership with all communities to ensure no incident goes unchallenged. It is important to remember that those promoting hatred are in the minority, and we must not allow them to detract from the fact that Scotland is a diverse, multi-cultural and welcoming country, where people are tolerant of each other's differences. I would urge anyone who has been the victim of, or witness to any <u>Hate Crime</u> to contact Police Scotland and report the incident.

"Please rest assured, Police Scotland continues to work with law enforcement partners around the world to counter the threat from terrorism and we will take all necessary steps to keep Scotland safe.

"I would therefore ask communities across the country to remain alert but not alarmed and to raise any concerns about suspicious activity with Police Scotland on 101, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or in an emergency dial 999"