



TAA Newsletter, Volume 3, Issue 12 December 2013

Dear Friends,

This month has been a trying one for Turkey. In the direct aftermath of the controversy surrounding the government's decision to close private prep schools, an egregious graft inquiry involving cabinet members and national and international business persons swept most headlines. Over the past few weeks, this inquiry quickly snowballed into a political crisis gripping an ever-polarized nation, due largely to obstructive attempts by the government to deflect current charges and to curtail further inquiries through a massive restructuring of the cabinet, bureaucracy and police forces. Furthermore, the Turkish public has been subjected to a steady vilification of certain actors, conspiratorial paranoia and political strong-arming of the media, judiciary and bureaucracy. We hope and pray for a speedy return to normalcy and for a sincere recognition and remediation of these ill-advised decisions. Please find more details about this issue in the policy paper published by the Rethink Institute, also included in this newsletter.

In other news, the Turkic American Alliance co-organized with the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Council of Turkic American Associations, the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians, and the Kazakh American Friendship Council, the First Annual U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention. This premier event was a huge success and was attended by many individuals, among them 20 U.S. Members of Congress and 2 U.S. Senators.

Earlier in December, the Honorable Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Chairman of Turkey's Republican People's Party (CHP), and a CHP delegation of 7 MPs visited the Turkic American Alliance. TAA also had audiences with His Excellency the Ambassador of Ghana and the Executive Director of the National Lieutenant Governors Association. Be sure to also check out highlights from the Blanket Drive for Syrian Refugees in Turkey organized in the Fairfax and Loudoun Counties of Virginia, as well as Mustafa Akyol's Book Tour in the U.S.

Save the date and mark your calendars for the upcoming Fourth Annual

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Turkic American Convention! TAC2014 will take place April 8th & 9th in Washington, D.C., and will be biggest networking and academic gathering of the Turkic American community of the year. Be sure to visit the Convention website for updates at www.turkicamericanconvention.org.

Finally, on behalf of the Turkic American Alliance, I would like to wish you and yours a very healthy and prosperous new year.

Yours Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

Mustafa Akyol's U.S. Book Tour



December 1st, 2013

Distinguished Turkish journalist and author Mustafa Akyol recently completed a month-long book tour in the United States. From October 24, 2013, to November 24, 2013, Akyol delivered lectures and keynote speeches and offered book signing events in 17 American cities throughout the Southwest and West Coast regions of the United States.

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Chairman Kilicdaroglu Visits TAA



December 3rd, 2013

Mr. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Chairman of Turkey's Republican People's Party (CHP), and a CHP delegation visited the Turkic American Alliance on December 3rd, 2013. The CHP delegation

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His Excellency from Ghana Visits TAA

December 5th, 2013

On Thursday, December 5, His Excellency Mr. Daniel Ohene Agyekum visited the Turkic American Alliance. Discussion topics ranged from Turkish-Ghanaian and U.S.-Ghanaian economic partnerships to the mission and activities of TAA. We are honored to have received Ambassador Agyekum and look forward to working together in the future.

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Blanket Refugee Drive for Syrian Refugees

December 7th, 2013

Hizmet Relief along with the Mid-Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA), the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA), Pinnacle Academy, the Counties of Loudoun and Fairfax, the town of Purcellville and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission co-organized a blanket drive for Syrian Refugees in Turkey. On November 19, Fairfax

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First Annual U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention an Enormous Success

December 11th, 2013

The First Annual U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention was a great success! The Convention took place on Wednesday, December 11th at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and featured a Breakfast and Opening Ceremony and two Panel Sessions. The theme of the Convention was "Successful Strategic Partnership" between the

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U.S.-Kazakhstan Breakfast and Opening Ceremony

December 11th, 2013

On Wednesday, December 11, 2014, the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Turkic American Alliance (TAA), the Council of Turkic American Associations (CTAA), the Turquoise Council of Americans and



Eurasians (TCAE) and the Kazakh American Friendship Council (KAFC) co-organized the First Annual U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention. The theme of the

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U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention Session I



December 11th, 2013

Session I of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention centered on the theme of "United States-Kazakhstan: Strategic Partnership." The session moderator was James F. Collins, Carnegie Endowment Director for Russia and Eurasia. Introductory remarks were provided by U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire. Senator Ayotte discussed how the U.S. was the

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U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention Session II



December 11th, 2013

Session II of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention continued under the theme of "Strategy 'Kazakhstan 2050': Long-Term Vision." The moderator for Session II was Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central-Asia Caucus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University. Introductory remarks were made by U.S. Representative Robert Aderholt, who

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Kazakhstan's Independence Day Gala in Washington, D.C.

December 11th, 2013

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized an Independence Day Gala to commemorate an early celebration of Kazakhstan's 22nd Day of Independence. The Gala took place in the evening of Wednesday, December 11, at the Willard Intercontinental and

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Visit by the National Lt. Governors Association Executive Director



December 17th, 2013

On Tuesday, December 17, Executive Director Julia Hurst of the National Lieutenant Governors Association visited TAA offices. This visit bore fruitful discussions and plans for future collaboration. The Turkic American Alliance thanks Executive Director Hurst for her visit and looks forward to working with the National Lieutenant Governors Association

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Mark Your Calendars! Save the Date!



December 30th, 2013

The dates for the Fourth Annual Turkic American Convention have been set! The Convention will open on Tuesday, April 8th at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium for a VIP Welcome Reception and will commence with a full day of events on Wednesday, April 9th at the Willard InterContinental, including

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Rethink Turkey Brief: Corruption Scandal & Ensuing Political Crisis



December 31st, 2013

The Executive Director of the Rethink Institute, Dr. Fevzi Bilgin, published in January 2014 a report regarding Turkey's ongoing graft scandal.

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