



TAA Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 5

May 2013

Dear Friends,

First of all, I would like to express my sadness over the news of demonstrations in Turkey. As Turkic American Alliance, we would like to urge the government officials and protesters to common sense. We would like to see restraint from both sides to avoid violence in nationwide protests that have gripped Turkey for more than a week. The demonstrations started out as a local environmental campaign in Taksim Square and quickly turned into anti-government demonstrations around the country. We believe that individuals deserve respect with their own preferences and faith. Taking these preferences into consideration by all political institutions, particularly the government is the guarantee of national peace.

On May 28-29, 2013, Baku hosted the "Azerbaijan-US: Vision for Future" convention co-organized by the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev delivered the opening remarks to the audience including 11 Members of Congress and 200+ Legislatures from 42 States. The U.S-Azeri Convention was huge success overall with a record of 300+ high level officials attending.

Right after Baku, we organized the first ever Turkish-American Friendship Dinner in Istanbul on May 31, 2013, in partnership with TUSKON. Half of about 400 guests were from the US, including three Members of Congress, a Secretary of State and many state policy makers who interacted with top business people during the event. Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan was the keynote speaker.

Lastly, the fourth annual Anatolian Cultures and Food Festival returned at the Orange County Fairgrounds in California from May 16 through 19 expanding its portfolio to several other cities by adding new structures. It is a major cultural and historical event that includes exhibitions, food, arts & crafts, performances, dances, and live music activities --- simply a Turkey trip without a jetlag. More than 65,000 people from United States and people all around the world attended this year event.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D  
President

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## The 11th Turkish Olympiads Kicked Off in Izmir

**June 1, 2013**

Students coming from all over the world participate in the 11th International Turkish Language Olympiad, which brings together hundreds of foreign students each year from Turkish schools established. This event



aims to build strong ties and lasting friendship and in turn raising hopes for world peace. The First Turkish Olympiad were launched in 2003 with the participation of 62 students from 17 countries. This [Read More](#)

## Turkish American Friendship Meeting at Ritz Carlton, Istanbul



**May 31, 2013**

On May 31, 2013, The Turkish Confederation of Businessmen, Industrialists (TUSKON) and The Turkic American Alliance (TAA) hosted the first Turkish-American Friendship Dinner in Istanbul. Over 400 guests including US Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Congresswoman Michelle Grisham, Congressman Leonard Lance, WI Secretary of State Doug LaFollette and Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan were in attendance. Many legislatures from 30 states had a chance to mingle with top business people present at the event.

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## Statement from TAA on Current Events in Turkey



**May 31, 2013**

What started out as peaceful protests around legitimate environmental concerns in Istanbul Taksim square last week turned into nationwide clashes between the police and the protesters in Turkey. We Turkic Americans unequivocally reject the use of disproportionate force, which made some of the protestors become more susceptible to provocations by extremist groups and turn violent.

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## Many US Delegations Visited Turkey



**May 31, 2013**

The Turkic American Alliance (TAA) and its member Federations attracted 200+ US officials from 30 states in Istanbul and some other cities. Turkish Investment Support & Promotion Agency, Zaman Newspaper, the U.S. Consulate-General, Kimse Yokmu Foundation, Media Foundation were among the places visited for meetings as well as major historical and touristic sites such as Topkapi Palace, Hagia Sofia, Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern and Grand Bazaar. Most groups took a Bosphorous Tour also.

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## Baku Hosted "Azerbaijan-US Vision for Future" Convention





**May 29, 2013**

On May 28- 29, 2013, Baku hosted the "Azerbaijan-US: Vision for Future" convention. The distinguished attendees were State and Government Officials, Azerbaijani parliamentarians, US congressmen, the two countries' ministers, experts and journalists. The first session of the convention was titled "The State of the US - Azerbaijan Strategic Partnership: US Foreign Policy toward Azerbaijan". The second session, called "Energy Security from the Caspian to Europe: the Changing World Energy Security Dynamics: New prospects for the Southern Energy Corridor". The third session was titled "Azerbaijan between East and West".

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## Turkic American Alliance Organized Major Excursion to Baku



**May 27, 2013**

Baku doesn't often see many high level US Officials altogether at once. Over 30 individual delegations from all corners of US including government officials, media members, and NGO representatives witnessed Baku's very modern views. They visited the Heyder Aliyev Convention Center, 162-metre giant flagpole, Azerbaijani Parliament, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, Qala Archaeological Park, Gala Bazar Restaurant, and Atashgah Temple Complex.

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## President Gul Received U.S. Representatives and TAA Delegations



**May 27, 2013**

Turkey's President Abdullah Gul warmly welcomed the delegation of the Turkic American Alliance (TAA) members with US Representatives Ruben Hinejosa of Texas, Yvette Clarke of New York, Michelle Grisham of New Mexico and Leonard Lance of New Jersey at the Cankaya Presidential Palace on May 27th 2013. Abdullah Gul emphasized on the importance of the relations between Turkey and the United States in order to solve the current issues arising in the Middle East especially in Syria. During the meeting, Healthcare system

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## Anatolian Cultures and Food Festival Attracted Thousands in LA

**May 19, 2013**

The Anatolian Cultures and Food Festival in Los Angeles returns to the Orange County fairgrounds with food, music, crafts and startlingly real re-creations of the wonders of Turkey.

The four-day Anatolian Cultures and Food Festival, the largest Turkish festival in the world, is introducing Americans to Turkey and Anatolian civilizations while promoting Turkey's diverse cultural communities. About 60,000 visitors came to the festival, including locals, historians, researchers and members of Anatolian peoples who reside in the area.

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