



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 1 January 2014

Dear Friends,

With new beginnings come new opportunities, and 2014 will be sure to be full of them. In terms of elections, Azerbaijan recently faced presidential elections late last year, Turkey will undergo municipal elections in the Spring and its first-ever presidential elections in late Summer, and the U.S. will see midterm elections in the Fall.

Additionally, arrangements are underway for the 2nd Annual Kyrgyz-American Convention to be held in Bishkek in Fall of 2014.

In Turkey, the graft probes that first surfaced on December 17th continue to make international headlines. The nature of these headlines, however, is less concerned with the shock of the allegations themselves, and more with the obscene reactions of the Prime Minister and the Turkish government. Deliberate and anti-democratic moves by the government to undermine the independence of the judiciary, to purge hundreds if not thousands of police offices from the investigations and shuffle its lead prosecutors, and to silence critiques and dissent in the media have severely stalled the probes. Meanwhile, the fate of the Turkish economy teeters dangerously outside the viselike grip the government so desperately seeks. The Turkish lira has hit record lows as the value of the Turkish market continues to depreciate.

And yet, instead of looking inwards and working to root out bad weeds and corrupt pockets within its rank, the ruling party has placed unwarranted blame elsewhere. The government has publicly accused the Hizmet movement and so-called followers of Turkish Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen of treachery, of colluding with nefarious Israeli and American agents, and of operating a deep, parallel state within the Turkish civil service and bureaucracy. It's high time the AK Party stands up for what its party acronym alludes.

In other news, a delegation from the Turkic American Alliance traveled

IN THIS ISSUE

[Rethink's 'Corruption Scandal & Political Crisis in Turkey'](#)

[CATA Chamber Hosts 4th Annual ConneCTA 2014 Silicon Valley](#)

[TAA Celebrates a Successful Tour of Central Asia](#)

[Delegation Meets with Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh](#)

[Meetings with Kyrgyz Members of Parliament](#)

[Meeting with Kyrgyz Minister of Economy](#)

[Rumi Forum & Truman National Security Project Co-Host Panel](#)

[Next Stop: Kazakhstan](#)

[TACC Presents U.S.-Kazakh Business Opportunities](#)

[Delegation Visits Dushanbe, Tajikistan](#)

[Business Meetings in Baku](#)

[Economic and Energy Discussions in Azerbaijan](#)

to Central Asia this month, visiting Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. During this successful tour, the delegation met with distinguished Turkic Parliamentarians and governing officials, in addition to representatives of the education, medical, business and energy sectors.

With a little over two months before the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention, I am pleased to announce that we have acquired some exciting RSVPs. Be sure to check your inbox for forthcoming invitations to this premier event. Connect with us on social media--on Twitter at @TACConvention and #TAC14, and on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and others. Follow updates on our newly designed TAC website at www.turkicamericanconvention.org.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Faruk Taban
President

Rethink's 'Corruption Scandal & Political Crisis in Turkey'



January 16th, 2014

On Thursday, January 16th, the Rethink Institute hosted a panel discussion entitled, "Corruption Scandal and Political Crisis in Turkey: What's Next?" Panelists included Dr. Joshua W. Walker, Dr. Omer Taspinar and Dr. Fevzi Bilgin.

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CATA Chamber Hosts 4th Annual ConnecTA 2014 Silicon Valley



January 16th, 2014

On January 16th, the California Turkish American Chamber of Commerce (CATA Chamber) organized its 4th annual business networking event, "ConnecTA 2014 Silicon Valley: Innovation in a

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TAA Celebrates a Successful Tour of Central Asia

January 28th, 2014

A distinguished delegation from the United States toured Central Asia this month. The delegation consisted of Dr. Faruk Taban, President of the Turkic American Alliance, Celil Yaka, President of the newly established Turkic American Chamber of


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Delegation Meets with Speaker of the Jogorku Kenseh



January 19th, 2014

The delegation's trip to Central Asia began in the Kyrgyz Republic. On January 19th, the delegation visited the Jogorku Kenesh (Supreme Council), the unicameral Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. There, the delegation met with the Honorable Parliament Speaker Asylbek Jeenbekov, who has previously visited the Turkic American

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Meetings with Kyrgyz Members of Parliament



January 20th, 2014

On January 20th, the TAA delegation met with the distinguished leaders of two Kyrgyz political parties-the Honorable Chynybay Tusunbekov, leader of the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan (SDPK) faction, and the Honorable Zhoomart

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Meeting with Kyrgyz Minister of Economy



January 21st, 2014

On January 21st, the delegation met with the Honorable Minister of the Economy, Sariev Temir Argembaevich. During the meeting the delegation invited Minister Argembaevich to the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention in Washington, D.C., this April. The delegation was also privileged to

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Rumi Forum & Truman National Security Project Co-Host Panel



January 22nd, 2014

On Wednesday, January 22nd, the Rumi Forum and the Truman National Security Project hosted an event entitled "Turkey 2014: Challenges and Prospects Ahead." Panelists included Dr. İhsan Dağı and Dr. Joshua Walker. Caitlin Howarth,

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Next Stop: Kazakhstan



January 22nd, 2014

On January 22nd, the delegation traveled to Kazakhstan, in Almaty. There, the delegation visited the impressive Süleyman Demirel University campus, which is named after the former Prime Minister and President of Turkey. They also met with Turkuaz Group of Companies CEO Mujdat Guler and Chairman Mert Sari at their

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TACC Presents U.S.-Kazakh Business Opportunities



January 22nd, 2014

On January 22nd, Celil Yaka, President of the newly established Turkic American Chamber of Commerce (TACC), offered a presentation regarding U.S.-Kazakh business opportunities before members of the Kazakhstan-Turkey Businessmen's Association (KATIAD) in Almaty.

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Delegation Visits Dushanbe, Tajikistan

January 23rd, 2014

The delegation's next stop was Tajikistan, in Dushanbe, on January 23rd and 24th. While in Dushanbe, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Celil Yaka of the Turkic American Chamber of



Commerce (TACC) and Kadir Gürsoy of the Turkish-Tajik Businessmen's Association (TATSİAD). The delegation also traveled to the magnificent

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Business Meetings in Baku



January 26th, 2014

The delegation's last and final stop was in Azerbaijan, in Baku, on January 26th and 27th. On the 26th, an agreement was signed in Baku between President Celil Yaka of the Turkic American Chamber of Commerce (TACC) and Rashid Cholak of Ipek Yolu Development Support

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Economic and Energy Discussions in Azerbaijan



January 27th, 2014

On January 27th, the delegation visited the headquarters of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and met with its distinguished Vice President, Mr. Halik Mammadov. The delegation also visited the distinguished Professor Dr. Ziyad Samedzade. Prof. Dr. Samedzade is Azerbaijan's eminent figure in economic policymaking and currently

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