

TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 2 February 2014

Dear Friends,

Regarding current events in Turkey, there have been two comprehensive and highly respected human rights reports released this past month—Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World 2014 [report](#), followed two weeks later by a [special report](#) entitled, "Democracy in Crisis: Corruption, Media, and Power in Turkey," and the U.S. Department of State's annual [Country Reports](#) on Human Rights Practices for 2013. These reports reiterate the troubling state of affairs in which the Republic of Turkey currently finds itself. According to Freedom House, the Turkish Prime Minister continues to display "increasingly authoritarian tendencies," while pointing to a crackdown on protesters in Istanbul and a campaign against critical voices in the media. According to the State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, the most significant human rights problems over the course of 2013 in Turkey have included government interference with freedom of expression and assembly, law enforcement and administration of justice, and corruption-related impunity. In the words of the revered religious scholar, Mr. Fethullah Gülen, "Freedom of thought, freedom of speech and freedom of religion are among indispensable human rights."

In other news, Turkic American Alliance representatives kept busy in February, attending a policy briefing with White House officials at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building alongside various community diaspora leaders; delivering a keynote address at a State House reception in Madison, Wisconsin, after meeting with distinguished local and state officials; and being invited to attend the National Governors Association (NGA) annual winter meetings and a private reception by the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) at the Supreme Court. TAA also delivered a presentation before the International Relations Committee of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) during its annual winter meetings.

In other parts of the country, respective local member federations teamed up with local charities in Los Angeles to organize a 'Diva

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Turkic American Alliance

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Day for homeless women, hosted an annual Turkic-Arkansan Friendship Dinner and organized the 8th Annual Turkish Culture and Language Olympiad in Houston.

This week marks one month before the 4th Annual Turkic American Convention! Don't forget to register today at <http://turkicamericanconvention.org/>. Stay tuned for forthcoming updates and get connected on Twitter with @TAConvention and #TAC14.

Sincerely,

Dr. Faruk Taban
President

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TAA Attends Ethnic Day at the White House



February 7th, 2014

On Friday, February 7th, TAA representatives were invited to attend Ethnic Day at the White House, a day-long event that included a tour of the White House and briefings by high-level officials in the Obama Administration. These distinguished officials included White House Chief of Staff Denis...[Read More](#)

Pacifica Volunteers Co-Sponsor 'Diva Day' in Los Angeles



February 8th, 2014

On Saturday, February 8th, 2014, the Pacifica Institute joined LAMP Community and a number of other local nonprofits to organize "Diva Day," a day-long event that provided health and wellness services to homeless women living in Skid Row, an area of...[Read More](#)

TAA Presentation before NASS



February 14th, 2014

On February 14th, Lamija Silajdzic, Project Assistant at the Turkic American Alliance (TAA), delivered a presentation before the International Relations Committee during the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Winter Meetings in...[Read More](#)

Raindrop Foundation's Turkish Culture & Language Olympiads



February 15th, 2014

On February 15th, the Raindrop Foundation organized its 8th Annual Turkish Culture and Language Olympiads. The event was held at the Hobby Center in Houston Texas, and was viewed by over three thousand people, ranging from parents to students to...[Read More](#)

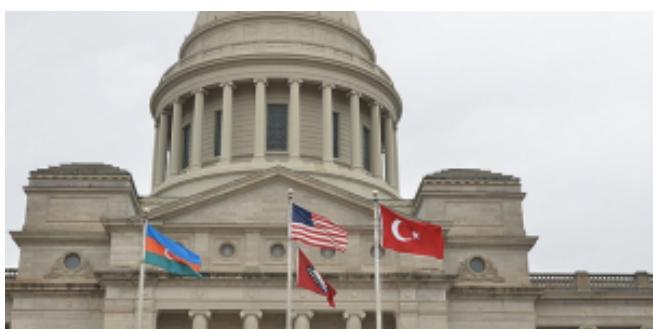
NGA Winter Meeting



February 21th, 2014

During the weekend of February 21st-23rd, Dr. Taban, President of the Turkic American Alliance (TAA), attended the annual winter meeting of the National Governors Association. The NGA meetings make national headlines each year as the nation's governors convene in Washington, D.C., to discuss...[Read More](#)

TCAE Hosts Turquoise-Arkansan Friendship Dinner



January 25st, 2014

The Turquoise Arkansan Friendship dinner was held at the Capitol Building at the Little Rock Club to mark the significance of building bilateral relations and partnerships with legislators and the community at large. The event took place on February 25th, 2014, and was organized by the Turquoise...[Read More](#)

NAAG Reception at Supreme Court

February 25nd, 2014

On Tuesday February 25th, the President of the Turkic American Alliance, Dr. Faruk Taban, attended a reception at the Supreme Court hosted by the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). This event coincides annually with the NAAG winter...[Read More](#)



State House Reception in Madison, Wisconsin



February 26th, 2014

On Wednesday, February 26th, Dr. Faruk Taban, President of the Turkic American Alliance, traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, to meet with Wisconsin lawmakers and to deliver a keynote at the 3rd Annual State Capitol Reception hosted by the Niagara...[Read More](#)

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Turkic American Alliance | 750 First Street NE | Suite 1125 | Washington | DC | 20002