



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 12 December 2014

Dear Friends,

This month, Turkey received harsh criticisms from the European Union and the international community on its approach towards media openness. Freedom House ranked Turkey as "not free" in its recent press freedom index -- generating major concern on the nation's diminishing democracy and rule of law under the leadership of the current regime. The current government has also been under close scrutiny by local and global advocacy groups on its eroding press freedom and expression, human rights and governance including its treatment on journalists and media outlets.

December also marked one year since the corruption probe that shook Turkey and The Prime Minister's declaration to launch attacks on the Hizmet movement and its supporters. It's recent attacks on the media sparked massive protests in Turkey and bitter responses from its diaspora across the globe. In response, Turkish-American communities in the U.S. mobilized to protest the targeted attacks and show their support for the Hizmet movement and concern for the nation's current state. TAA and its six Member Federations released a statement condemning the detentions of Ekrem Dumanli, editor-in-chief of Zaman Daily; Hidayet Karaca, chief executive of Samanyolu Media Group and dozens of other journalists in Turkey. In spite of civil unrest and persistent injustices on the citizens of Turkey, the Turkic American Alliance prays for peace in the nation.

In other news, the number of Syrians in Turkish refugee camps have reached 1.6 million--according to the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD). The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recently released a statement requesting donor support to help the displaced refugees and Amnesty International pushed for their resettlement as early as 2016. According to UNICEF, over 6.5 million children have been affected by the conflict since it began more than three years ago.

TAA hosted an official reception for U.S. State Legislators and NCSL Staff at our headquarters and hosted a delegation from the South African Embassy. The Council for Turkic American Associations (CTAA) organized its 2nd Annual Kazakh-U.S.

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TAA Video



Turkic American Alliance

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Convention at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington D.C.; The Mid Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA) held a Gala dinner to benefit Syrian Refugees in eastern Turkey and Niagara Foundation hosted its 10th year Anniversary in Chicago.

In closing, TAA is proud to announce that we will be holding our 5th Annual Turkic American Convention on March 17-18th, 2015. Mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there.

On behalf of the Turkic American Alliance, I would like to wish you all a warm and prosperous year ahead.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

Niagara Foundation's 10th Year Anniversary



December 4th, 2014

On December 4th, 2014, the Niagara Foundation celebrated its 10th Year Anniversary at the Hilton Grand Ballroom in downtown Chicago. This year's dinner coincided Niagara's annual Peace and Dialogue Awards under the theme of Peace, Friendship and Conviction. Over 750 people attended the gala, including public officials, community...[Read More](#)

Northern Virginia Unites to Benefit Syrian Refugees



December 4th, 2014

On December 4th, 2014 the American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) collaborated to host a gala dinner to benefit Syrian refugees. A total of \$98,000 was raised and 25,000 blankets were collected from across Northern Virginia this year. Organizations that took part in organizing the dinner, included Mid Atlantic...[Read More](#)

2nd U.S. Kazakh Convention



December 10th, 2014

On December 10, 2014, the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the United States, with the support of the Council for Turkic American Associations (CTAA) held its 2nd U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention, at the Willard Intercontinental in Washington D.C. to strengthen bilateral ties and assist in fostering strategic regional and...[Read More](#)

TAA Reception for U.S. State Legislators



December 10th, 2014

On December 10, 2014, representatives from the National Conference of State Legislators and 15 state legislators across the U.S. attended a reception at the TAA headquarters along with TAA member federation presidents - Mahmut Yeter, Executive Director of Mid Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA); Suleyman Turhanogullari, President...[Read More](#)

Rep. Jim McDermott Receives Ebru Art



December 10th, 2014

On December 10th, 2014, Ozkur Yildiz, President of West American Turkic Council (WATC) and Lamija Silajdzic, Program Assistant at Turkic American Alliance (TAA) visited Congressman Jim McDermott (D-WA) at his offices in Washington D.C. to present an Ebru Water Marbling artwork in his name, written in calligraphy, in appreciation...[Read More](#)

Turkish-Americans Condemn Zaman Daily and Samanyolu TV Detentions

December 15th, 2014



The Turkic American Alliance and its six Member Federations strongly condemn detentions of Ekrem Dumanli, editor-in-chief of Zaman Daily, Hidayet Karaca, chief executive of Samanyolu Media Group, and dozens of others, on phony charges, as a blatant breach of press freedom and rule of law. This development is a..[Read More](#)

South African Embassy Delegation Visits TAA



December 16th, 2014

On December 16th, 2014, Hon. Nowelu Nuti, Deputy Chief of Mission of the South African Embassy in Washington D.C. visited TAA headquarters. She was accompanied by Lethlogonolo Desmond Moreki, First Secretary; Ndumiso Mngadi, Third Secretary and Joe Erasmus, first Secretary (Political)...[Read More](#)

Save the Date - Turkic American Convention 2015



December 18th, 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The 5th Annual Turkic American Convention will be held on March 17-18, 2015 in Washington D.C. A welcome reception will be held at the Senate Building on March 17th, 2015 and conclude with a Gala Reception at The Willard Intercontinental on March 18, 2015 in Washington...[Read More](#)

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