



TAA Newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 9 September 2014

Dear Friends,

This month, the Turkic American Alliance and its six regional federations and over 240 local member organizations located across the United States condemned in the strongest terms possible the 9/11 attacks and all other atrocious and cowardly acts of terrorism. This is acutely true today, as world leaders come together to combat the so-called ISIS militant group. As the United States and its Arab allies began targeted airstrikes against ISIS positions in Syria, Syrians fled to the Turkish borders in overwhelming numbers--160,000 Syrian refugees alone in the last two weeks of September.

In response to the despicable rise of ISIS, Turkish Islamic Scholar Fethullah Gülen released a statement that was published in five major U.S. newspapers (*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*). Mr. Gülen strongly condemned the militant group's activities as "an abuse of religion" and further insisted that their actions "contradict the principles of the Quran and traditions of the Prophet." The Turkic American Alliance hopes and prays for lasting peace in the region and for an end to violent radicalism and extremism in the name of Islam once and for all.

A long ways away from its Washington headquarters, the Turkic American Alliance co-organized an intercultural study trip to Turkey and the Kyrgyz Republic. The trip included a special event, the 2nd Annual Kyrgyz American Convention, which took place in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic, on September 25th. It was the first of its kind for this Central Asian country and was attended by over 200 guests. The convention received a prominent delegation of 33 individuals from the U.S., including 12 state legislators from across 5 states, and high-level government officials from the Kyrgyz Republic, including H.E. Tayirbek Sarpashev, the Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic; H.E. Temir Sariev, Minister of Economic Affairs; the Hon. Dr. Kanybek Imanaliev, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Jogorku Kenesh; two former Ministers; and various Parliament Deputies from the ruling and opposition parties. Stay tuned for more detailed recaps in the coming month.

Back in the States, the Turkish Cultural Center of Vermont (TCC-

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Turkic American Alliance

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Vermont) received a favorable review by Vermont's *Burlington Free Press*. In an interview with TCC-Vermont's co-founder, Adem G. Aydin, the article highlighted the role that Turkish Cultural Centers play in communities throughout New England, as well as the various initiatives that have contributed to its rapid success. The Peace Islands Institute hosted a reception in New York City that brought together prominent international leaders to promote the theme of "Education for Sustainable Development" during the General Debate of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Additionally, the Turkish American Business Network (TABN) held its first Mid-Atlantic Business Summit in Virginia, attracting over 200 small businesses leaders and experts from a variety of sectors in addition to elected officials.

Lastly, Azerbaijan marked the 20th Anniversary of the "Contract of the Century," a document signed in Baku by the late President Heydar Aliyev that helped establish Azerbaijan as a key contributor to the world's energy sector. President Aliyev was instrumental in initiating policies that promoted the interests of the Azerbaijani state and in developing regional and international partnerships with major energy companies.

Finally, mark your calendars for TAA's event during IdEA's Global Diaspora Week! We will be hosting a forum on Tuesday, October 14th, entitled "Silk Road Communities in the United States" at our office headquarters and will hear from representatives of the respective Azeri, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Turkmen, Tajik and Turkish diaspora communities.

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

On the 13th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks



September 11th, 2014

Thirteen years have passed since that fateful day that shook our nation and forever changed the course of history. Today, on this anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the Turkic American Alliance mourns and remembers those 2,977 innocent...[Read More](#)

TCC-Vermont Co-Founder Interviewed by Burlington Press



September 12th, 2014

On September 12th, 2014, Adem G. Aydin, co-founder of the Turkish Cultural Center in Vermont, was interviewed by the Burlington Free Press, in which he shared the pillars of the organization's rapid growth and success since its establishment in 2011. In the interview, Mr. Aydin mentioned that he was...[Read More](#)

Mr. Gülen Releases Statement on ISIS in U.S. Newspapers

September 17th, 2014

On September 17th, 2014 Turkish Islamic Scholar Fethullah Gülen released a statement condemning the ISIS organization and its attacks, which was published by the Washington Post, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, LA Times and the Wall Street Journal. Below is the complete column as it was reported: ISIS Cruelty...[Read More](#)

PII and GYV Host High-Level UN Reception in New York



September 25th, 2014

On September 25th, 2014, the Peace Islands Institute (PII) collaborated with the Journalists and Writers Foundation (*Gazeteciler ve Yazarlar Vakfı* (GYV)) to host a high-level reception coinciding with the General Debate of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The theme of the reception was "Education for...[Read More](#)

A Successful Kyrgyz American Convention in Bishkek



September 25th, 2014

The Turkic American Alliance held its 2nd Annual Kyrgyz American Convention in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic, on September 25th, 2014. The premier event was attended by over 200 guests and attracted a prominent delegation of government officials, legislators, leading businesspersons, academics and experts from the

U.S....[Read More](#)

TABN Holds Mid-Atlantic Business Summit



September 30th, 2014

On September 30th, 2014, the Turkish American Business Network (TABN) held its 1st annual Mid-Atlantic Small Business Summit at the Fairview Marriott in Northern Virginia. The summit

brought together over 200 small business owners and professionals, including leaders and experts in business development from a variety of sectors in...[Read More](#)

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