



## TAA Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 1 January 2015

Dear Friends,

This month, Ekrem Dumanli, editor in chief of the *Zaman Daily* newspaper in Turkey published a column in The Washington Post, detailing the witch-hunt against the Turkish media, and the country's changing democracy landscape. Similarly, Hidayet Karaca, chief executive of *Samanyolu Media Group*, who has been in jail for over two months, released a video titled, "[A Letter to the Free World](#)", citing a serious threat on press freedom in the country and the systemic politics of repression by Turkish authorities, in particular, the raids on media outlets on the anniversary of the December 14th, 2013 graft probe.

The Turkic American Alliance believes freedom of speech to be at the core of true democracy and also an epitome of peace. Lack of it, thereof sets the stage for protest and pleas for solutions to pertinent and unresolved injustices -- all of which exhibit the signs of a failed government system. The need and desire to share perspective on these tragic events is intended to highlight the orchestrated onslaught of the current regime on its citizens, the Hizmet Movement and its supporters across the globe. The efforts and actions taken by *Zaman Daily* and *Samanyolu Media Group*, we believe, are made with the hope of inspiring the citizens of Turkey to alter the path of a nation that continues to stray from its course.

TAA and its six member federations condemned in the strongest terms, the terrorist attack on French magazine Charlie Hebdo and sends its deepest condolences to the victims and their families. We hope for justice for the citizens of France and pray for a peaceful and more tolerant society during these harrowing times.

TAA's member organizations representatives attended swearing-in ceremonies and celebrations on Capitol Hill and met with Vice President Joe Biden, DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and Attorney General Eric Holder. TAA also held a briefing on "Press Freedom and Human Rights in Turkey" in Congress, highlighting the sharp turn towards the separation of power, rule of law, judicial autonomy and diminishing freedom of expression. We hosted a reception to welcome the 114th Congress at our office, attended by over 30 congressional staff and our member organizations.

*Visit Our Social Media*



*TAA Video*



Turkic American Alliance

### *In This Issue*

[Ekrem Dumanli Highlights Witch-Hunt against Turkish Media](#)

[Swearing-In Ceremonies on Capitol Hill](#)

[Welcome Reception for 114th Congress](#)

[Rethink Institute 2015 Turkey Country Report](#)

[Muslim Leaders in California Condemn Extremism](#)

[Turkic American Alliance Deplores Paris Shootings](#)

[Turkish Cultural Center NH featured on WBIN-TV](#)

Mark your Calendars! We are proud to announce that The Turkic American Convention and Business Summit will be held on March 17-19, 2015. Please check the TAC website to join us at the Gala Reception on March 18th at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington D.C.

[Briefing on Turkey's Press Freedom in Congress](#)

[Eurasia Foundation President visits TAA](#)

Sincerely,

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.  
President

## Ekrem Dumanli Highlights Witch-Hunt against Turkish Media



**January 1st, 2015**

On January 1st, 2015, Ekrem Dumanli, editor in chief of the Zaman Daily newspaper in Turkey published a column in The Washington Post, detailing the witch-hunt against the Turkish media. Below is the op-ed article, as published by The Washington Post website on January 1st, 2015. Ekrem Dumanli: Turkey's witch hunt against the media. When I first appeared... [Read More](#)

## Swearing-In Ceremonies on Capitol Hill



**January 6th, 2015**

On January 6, 2015, Turkic American Alliance and its member federations attended the swearing-in ceremonies and celebrations on Capitol Hill. Our members were able to meet with Joe Biden, U.S. Vice President, Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security; Senator Joni Ernst (IA) and Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General. TAA and its member organizations representatives attended multiple events in congress, including the Congress ... [Read More](#)

## Welcome Reception for 114th Congress



**January 7th, 2015**

On January 7, 2015 TAA held a reception at to welcome the 114th Congress at our TAA headquarters. Over 30 congressional staff were in attendance, including Mahmut Yeter, Executive Director of Mid Atlantic Federation of Turkic American Associations (MAFTAA); Suleyman Turhanogullari, President of Turkic American Federation of Midwest (TAFM); Oz ... [Read More](#)

## Rethink Institute 2015 Turkey Country Report



**January 10th, 2015.**

The Rethink Institute released its annual unique publication titled, 2015 Turkey Country Report, which features short essays covering the latest developments in Turkey, including facts and statistics about Turkey. The key topics range from the 2014 Presidential Elections, Sustainable Poverty, Democracy and Rule of Law, Hate Speech, Education and Foreign Intervention, to Energy and Government Reform. In 2013, it published a similar country report in 2013, focusing on Energy and Security ... [Read More](#)

## Muslim Leaders in California Condemn Extremism



**January 13th, 2015**

On January 13, 2015 Pacifica Institute in Los Angeles, in collaboration with Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez and Bayan Claremont Islamic Graduate School hosted a panel discussion titled, "Muslim Voices against Extremism" in response to the shootings and terror attacks on January 7th, 2015 in Paris, France. The purpose of the event was to give ... [Read More](#)

## Turkic American Alliance Deplores Paris Shootings



**January 16th, 2015.**

The Turkic American Alliance and its six member federations condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on French magazine Charlie Hebdo. Such horrific actions represent an assault on democratic values and can never be justified no matter the underlying reason. Even against insults, the befitting response must be legal and civil. Our thoughts are with the people of France and our prayers with the families of ... [Read More](#)

## Turkish Cultural Center NH featured on WBIN-TV



**January 22nd, 2015**

On January 22, 2015, The Turkish Cultural Center in New Hampshire (TCCNH) was featured on WBIN-TV's "Our Local Look", a local television series that highlights organizations and events that are making a positive impact in the community. WBIN-TV is an independent television station serving Massachusetts and New Hampshire. TCCNH aims to promote cultural awareness and engage in dialogue through



educational ... [Read More](#)

## Briefing on Turkey's Press Freedom in Congress



**January 27th, 2015**

On Jan 27th, 2015, TAA held an event titled, "Press Freedom and Human Rights in Turkey" at the Cannon Office House Building. The distinguished panelists included Sevgi Akarcesme, correspondent and columnist at Turkish Daily Zaman; Dr. Savas ... [Read More](#)

## Eurasia Foundation President visits TAA



**January 29th, 2015**

On Jan 29, 2015, Horton-Beebe Center, President of Eurasia Foundation visited TAA offices. During the meeting, TAA President Dr. Taban shared the mission and goals of the organization its current projects, including the upcoming 2015 Turkic American Convention and Business Summit in March. Other topics of discussion included the diverse initiatives of TAA's six member federations, country-specific conventions such as the 2nd Annual Kyrgyzstan Convention in Bishkek and the recent U.S.-Kazakhstan Convention which was held in Washington D.C. last yea... [Read More](#)

[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe™**

This email was sent to [info@turkicamericanalliance.org](mailto:info@turkicamericanalliance.org) by [info@turkicamericanalliance.org](mailto:info@turkicamericanalliance.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



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