



TAA Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 3

March, 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This month, 74 U.S. Senators signed a letter expressing deep concern on "the persistence of human rights violations" in Turkey, including the recent arrests of members of the media by the Turkish government. In the letter, the Senators also called for Turkey's current administration to "encourage a peaceful and appropriate resolution to the cases" of the arrested journalists and writers. Rep. Bill Keating (MA) wrote a letter, which was signed by 4 other Members of Congress, urging Secretary of State John Kerry to engage the Turkish government and Turkish civil society on issues regarding the rule of law. Similarly, in February, 90 members of the U.S. Congress responded to the arrests of journalists.

To commemorate its 22nd anniversary, Samanyolu Media Group opened a new broadcasting studio in Washington D.C., attended by over 150 guests, including members of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Ilhan Isbilen (independent), Aykan Erdemir (CHP) and Enver Erdem (MHP); Ridvan Kiziltepe, Vice President of Samanyolu Media Group; and Murat Keskin, Editor in Chief of Samanyolu. Hidayet Karaca, who is still in prison, sent a message thanking U.S. lawmakers, Freedom House, prominent newspapers such as Le Monde and The Guardian for demanding the support of free media. The new center will serve as a platform to enhance U.S. Turkey relations by providing live news coverage to diverse audiences in U.S., Turkey and the international community.

TAA was also excited to conclude another very successful Annual Turkic American Convention & Business Summit on March 17-19, 2015 in Washington D.C. The 3-day flagship event attracted over 800 people, including U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators, 3 Members of Turkish Parliament, 2 Member of the Mongolian Parliament; 75 international businesspersons and 80 international participants from over 15 different countries and 80 members of the Ahiskan American community. Also among the distinguished guests that participated were Ambassadors and their representatives as well as leaders from various

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In This Issue

[5th Annual Turkic American Convention Kicks Off](#)

[Samanyolu TV Opens a Broadcasting Studio in Washington D.C](#)

[5th Annual Turkic American Convention Formally Welcomes Guests](#)

[5th Annual Turkic American Convention - Gala Reception Took Place at the Willard](#)

[TAC 15 Continues with Business Breakfast Meeting at Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center](#)

[International Guests from 15 Different Countries Attend 5th Annual Turkic American Convention](#)

U.S. national organizations. During the convention, our delegations had a great opportunity to interact with 109 U.S. Representatives and 14 U.S. Senators.

A welcome reception was held at the Russell Senate Office Building, followed by a Business Breakfast at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center with Ambassador Vinai Thummalapally, Executive Director of SelectUSA as the keynote speaker. The convention concluded with a Gala Reception and a keynote address by Richard E. Hoagland, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southern and Central Asian Affairs.

TAA also attended the first Nowruz Celebrations held at the White House including this year's SelectUSA Investment Summit hosted by the White House and Department of Commerce. The Turkic American Federation of Southeast (TAFS) hosted a legislative reception in Florida; The Turkic American Federation of Midwest (TAFM) held an Intercultural Reception in Bismarck, North Dakota; The American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) opened a new branch in Kentucky.

We are pleased to inform you that TAA and Rumi Forum will be hosting the 13th Annual International Festival of Language and Culture on April 28, 2015. The International Festival of Language and Culture has been organized in various parts of the U.S. as a regional event, however, this year, TAA and Rumi are working to bring you the first IFLC on the national level. Details on the event will be available soon.

Sincerely,
Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President

[Ahiska Communities from All Corners of the U.S. Participate at the 5th Turkic American Convention](#)

[5th Annual Turkic American Convention](#)

[8th Annual International Language and Culture Festival](#)

[Annual Nowruz Celebrations in Houston, Texas](#)

[Legislative Reception in Tallahassee, Florida](#)

[State House Reception in North Dakota](#)

[Rep. Keating Leads Call For Dialogue With Turkey on Rule of Law](#)

[ATFA Opens New Branch in Louisville](#)

5th Annual Turkic American Convention Kicks Off



March 17, 2015

5th Annual Turkic American Convention & Business Summit began with various activities and programs on Tuesday morning. More than 110 guests came to the TAA office, registered for the convention, had breakfast and continued on with their programs. Attendants showed the majority of those who were welcomed at the Turkic American Alliance's office today were international businessmen who are... [Read More](#)

Samanyolu TV Opens a Broadcasting Studio in Washington D.C.

March 17, 2015

Samanyolu TV had a Grand Opening of their Washington D.C. Broadcasting Center at the TAA office during the 5th Annual Turkic American Convention. Lamija Silajdzic from Turkic American Alliance hosted the ceremony. Businessperson, representatives from NGOs and international guests attended the



ceremony which was being broadcasted live in Turkey. A total of 150 guests were in attenda...

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5th Annual Turkic American Convention Welcomes Guests



March 18, 2015

March 17, 2015, Washington, D.C. - The official Welcome Reception of the 5th Annual Turkic American Alliance and Business Summit took place at the Russell Senate Office Building. Over 15 countries were represented at the event, which attracted members of the academia, various NGOs, businesspersons, elected officials and many other distinguished guests. Over 200 people attended the event in packe... [Read More](#)

TAC 15 Gala Reception at the Willard



March 18, 2015

5th Annual Turkic American Convention & Business Summit commenced with the Gala Reception held at the Willard InterContinental Hotel. The doors opened for guests at 6:30 PM ET and approximately 500 participants filled the room within minutes. The reception was hosted by Lamija Silajdzic from Turkic American Alliance and started with an introductory video about TAA and welcoming remarks from TAA P... [Read More](#)

Business Breakfast Meeting at Ronald Reagan Building



March 18, 2015

5th Annual Turkic American Convention and Business Summit Continued on Wednesday with a breakfast meeting at Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Business people from over 15 countries, as well as all corners of the United States met bright and early, at 8:00 AM to discuss issues related to their businesses and to lay foundations for further cooperation, investment and partnership. The m... [Read More](#)

International Guests from 15 Countries Attend TAC 15

March 19, 2015



Nearly 100 international guests from 15 different countries travelled to Washington D.C. to participate at the 5th Annual Turkic American Convention & Business Summit on March 17-19, 2015. Guests from Azerbaijan, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Turkey arrived at the capital of the United States on Monday, March 16 and T... [Read More](#)

Ahiska Communities Participate at TAC 15



March 19, 2015

Representatives of Ahiska Turks from all over the United States came to Washington, D.C. to participate at the 5th Annual Turkic American Convention & Business Summit between March 17 and March 19, 2015. More than 80 Ahiska Turks from Seattle (WA), Colorado, Springfield (IL), Louisville (KY), Houston (TX), Arizona, Dayton (OH), Wheaton (IL), Hagerstown (MD), Philadelphia (PA), Charlotte (NC) an... [Read More](#)

5th Annual Turkic American Convention



March 19, 2015

The 5th Annual Turkic American Convention & Business Summit took place on March 17-19, 2015 in Washington D.C. The convention began by an informal Welcome Breakfast at Turkic American Alliance headquarters on March 17, at 9:00 AM ET. Drawing more than 100 guests, the breakfast was followed by the Grand Opening of Samanyolu Broadcasting Group's Washington D.C. Broadcasting Center. Guests reconvened at the TAA headquarters to participate in the grand opening at 1:00 PM ET on Tuesday, March 17. Distinguishe... [Read More](#)

8th Annual International Language and Culture Festival in New York



March 22, 2015

The Turkish Cultural Center of New York hosted the 8th International Language and Culture Festival at Montclair State University, Memorial Auditorium in New Jersey. Among the attendees were students, teachers, schools, and parents from the U.S. and around the world.

The festival was organized to provide students an opportunity to showcase their talents through various competitions such as singing, poetry recitation, cultural folk dances. Qualifying Rounds were held locally in partic... [Read More](#)

Annual Nowruz Celebrations in Houston, Texas



March 22, 2015

Raindrop Foundation and its umbrella organization, Turquoise Council of Eurasians and Americans (TCAE) coorganized a two-day festival to celebrate Nowruz in Houston on March 21 and 22, 2015. The festival took place on grounds stretching for 36 acres and included many activities for children and adults alike.

Aside from experiencing live performances by artists from across the world, spanning from Central Asia all the way to the Balkans, guests also enjoyed the cuisine of these countries. Roasted lamb and cevabi kebab fr... [Read More](#)

Legislative Reception in Tallahassee, Florida



March 23, 2015

Florida Senate President Hon. Andy Gardiner welcomed Mr. Cemil Teber and Mr. Fatih Beyhan of Turkic American Federation of Southeast as the 3rd Annual Turkish American Day got underway at the Florida State Capitol. Sen. Rene Garcia, sponsored a resolution declaring the day Turkish-American Day. The Proclamation was read on the Senate Floor. The celebrations then moved to viewing deck on the... [Read More](#)

State House Reception in North Dakota



March 25, 2015

A Legislative Reception was organized by the Turkic American Federation of Midwest (TAFM) in Bismark, state capital of North Dakota. Among the distinguished guests were Secretary of State Al Jaeger (ND), Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, host committee members Senator David O'Connell, Rep. Lois Delmore, Senator Philip Murphy, Rep. Lawrence R. Klemin, Rep. Ben W. Hanson along with several ... [Read More](#)

Rep. Keating Leads Call For Dialogue With Turkey on Rule of Law

March 27, 2015

Representative William Keating (MA) and 4 other members of the U.S. Congress wrote an open letter to the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in which they urge the Secretary to redouble the State Department's efforts to engage Turkey in matters regarding freedom of the press, civil society and the rule of law. While Representative Keating, who sits on the House Co. ... [Read More](#)



ATFA Opens New Branch in Louisville, Kentucky



March 28, 2015

American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA) opened a new branch in Louisville Kentucky. The ribbon cutting ceremony was performed by Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville. The new center is located at 4711 Progress Blvd, Louisville KY 40218. In addition to assisting the Turkish and Turkic communities to integrate into the American society, the new office will be used to organize various cultural events, activities and language classes for the local community and the public at large. The Louisville branch, joins.... [Read More](#)

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