



June 25, 2012

Dear Representative:

We, Presidents of America's leading Turkish and Turkic-American grassroots organizations, including the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA), Turkish American Community Centers (TACC), Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC) and Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA), which represent over 500,000 Turkish Americans and 300,000 Turkic Americans nationwide, **express our grave concern regarding ten racist, anti-Turkish and anti-Muslim resolutions that are before both chambers of the American legislature.** (List on Page 2)

The combined effect of the remarkable number of hostile resolutions presently pending is to evince an element of racism and clear anti-Turkish and anti-Muslim biases. These resolutions, which recur with increased frequency in successive Congresses, are replete with inaccurate and misleading clauses, utilize a paternalistic tone, and are openly promoted by, if not drafted by, anti-Turkish and anti-Muslim ethnic lobbies. Indeed, there is a tremendous overlap of original sponsors from districts with large Greek and Armenian constituencies. We find these resolutions disturbing and threatening to Americans of Turkish and Muslim heritage, and offensive to Turkey, which is peculiarly the most criticized U.S. ally on Capitol Hill. This is not the way Congress should treat a key American heritage community -- Turkish Americans -- and a key global partner of the United States -- Turkey.

The virtues of a diverse society, and American justice and fairness cannot be fully upheld when Congress permits itself to pit ethnic groups against each other. Legislators must stand for higher principles and take notice of and discourage this alarming regime of anti-Turkish legislation.

Sincerely,

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Racist Regime of Anti-Turkish Legislation

1. H.Res. 180 Illegal, unethical and provocative. Forces Turkey to interfere in an ecclesiastical matter in contravention of the Establishment Clause of the Turkish Constitution, and in favor of one denomination of Christianity and/or one religion over others.
2. H.Res. 304 Prejudicial, malicious and reckless in its disregard for the truth. Convicts without trial, Turkey and people of Turkish and Muslim heritage of the crime of genocide.
3. S.Res. 399 Prejudicial, malicious and reckless in its disregard for the truth. Convicts without trial, Turkey and people of Turkish and Muslim heritage of the crime of genocide.
4. S.Res.392 Malicious and reckless in its disregard for the truth. Falsely accuses Turkey and Turkish people of destroying Turkey's Christian heritage.
5. H.Res. 506 Moot and reckless in its disregard for the truth. Needlessly criticizes a policy that has already changed in favor of opening the Halki seminary.
6. S.Res. 196 Moot and reckless in its disregard for the truth. Needlessly criticizes a policy that has already changed in favor of opening the Halki seminary.
7. H.R. 2597 Prejudicial. Selectively modifies US law to benefit a tiny group of Greek Cypriot Americans who claim property on the island of Cyprus, and reverses existing American judicial precedent.
8. H.Res.676 Prejudicial and reckless in its disregard for the truth. Falsely accuses Turkey and Turkish people of colonizing the island of Cyprus.
9. S.Con.Res.47 Prejudicial and reckless in its disregard for the truth. Denies Turkish Cypriots their ethnic, religious and sovereign rights.
10. H.R. 3131 Malicious. Disingenuously implies that Greece recognizes Israel's right to exist, but that Turkey does not, meanwhile ignoring the deaths of nine Turkish civilians, including one Turkish American, in a botched anti-terror operation aboard a cruise ship on the high seas.