



# TURKISH COALITION *of* AMERICA

*Fostering Understanding of Turkish American Issues Through Public Education*

[www.tc-america.org](http://www.tc-america.org)

2010 Annual Report

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# Executive Summary

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*The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) was founded in 2007 as an educational, charitable organization.*

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Based in the nation's capital, TCA works to:

- Foster friendship, understanding and cooperation between the United States and Turkey
- Expand Turkish American outreach to American public and private entities
- Promote and advance the interests of the Turkish American community and Turks
- Protect the character and ensure a realistic portrayal of Turkey and Turkish Americans in the media and the arts
- Identify and recognize the achievements of Turkish Americans in academia, arts, business, education, government, public service and science.

TCA's work is undertaken by a professional team, interns and volunteers from offices in **Boston, Washington, DC** and **Istanbul** with representation in **Los Angeles** and **Detroit**. The TCA Representative Office was formally established under relevant Turkish laws in 2010.

- **G. Lincoln McCurdy**, *President*
- **Guler Koknar**, *Vice President*
- **Basak Kızıldemir**, *Vice President, Turkey*
- **Bruce Fein**, *Resident Scholar*
- **David Saltzman**, *Counsel*
- **Louette Ragusa**, *Executive Assistant*
- **Leah Ersoylu**, *Program Manager*
- **Beril Unver**, *Project Manager*
- **Zeynep Guven**, *Project Coordinator*
- **Carol Ann Jackson**, *Project Coordinator*
- **Gulhan Ozkan**, *Administrative Assistant (Turkey)*
- **Yalcin Doruk**, *Web Project Manager (Turkey)*

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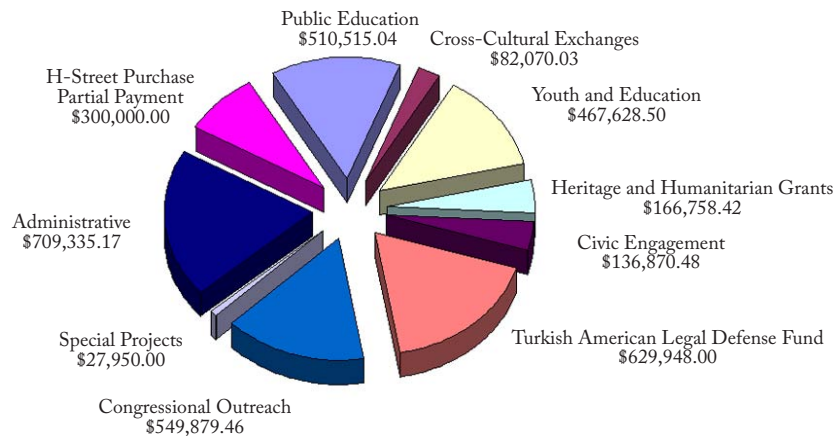
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# Financial Statement

The Turkish Coalition of America invested \$3,580,955.10 in 2010 to pursue its mission and programs. The 2010 budget of TCA represents %83.2 increase over its 2009 budget, when TCA's budget stood at \$1,954,886. The following represents a break-down of all TCA administrative and program expenses:

• <b>Public Education</b>	<b>\$510,515.04</b>
<i>Educational Awareness</i>	\$250,810.13
<i>Public Relations</i>	\$259,704.91
• <b>Cross-Cultural Exchanges</b>	<b>\$82,070.03</b>
<i>Native American</i>	\$82,070.03
• <b>Youth and Education</b>	<b>\$467,628.50</b>
<i>Internships</i>	\$38,882.50
<i>Scholarships</i>	\$253,377.45
<i>University of Utah Program</i>	\$175,368.55
• <b>Heritage and Humanitarian Grants</b>	<b>\$166,758.42</b>
<i>Haiti Grant</i>	\$50,000.00
<i>Chaldean Grant</i>	\$40,000.00
<i>BAACBH</i>	\$26,758.42
<i>UMD</i>	\$50,000.00
• <b>Civic Engagement</b>	<b>\$136,870.48</b>
<i>Council of Turkish Canadians</i>	\$5,000.00
<i>Grassroots Grants</i>	\$119,520.48
<i>Honorariums</i>	\$4,300.00
<i>Sponsorships</i>	\$8,050.00
• <b>Turkish American Legal Defense Fund</b>	<b>\$629,948.00</b>
• <b>Congressional Outreach</b>	<b>\$549,879.46</b>
• <b>Special Projects</b>	<b>\$27,950.00</b>
<i>ATAA web-service</i>	\$8,050.00
<i>Individual Institutions</i>	\$19,900.00
• <b>Administrative</b>	<b>\$709,335.17</b>
• <b>H-Street Purchase Partial Payment</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>



**2010 TOTAL: \$3,580,955.10**

# Educating the Public

*TCA contributes to the accurate portrayal of Turkish Americans and Turkey through a proactive media strategy.*

Year around, TCA's professional team monitors American media and engages with journalists through face-to-face meetings and by providing background information and fact sheets on current issues. TCA officers and experts regularly publish opinion articles and respond to inaccurate or one-sided reporting on issues of concern to Turkish Americans. **TCA Issue Papers** are regularly sent to members of Congress and opinion leaders in 2010, TCA issued **75 Issue Papers** and statements that provided information and analysis on current affairs related to Turkey and amplified the position of TCA on issues of importance to Turkish Americans.

**TURKISH COALITION of AMERICA**  
Fostering Understanding of Turkish American Issues through Public Education

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**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
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LEGAL RIGHTS  
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TAKE ACTION  
TCA BLOG  
JOIN TCA BULLETIN

**TCA Hosts Reception Honoring Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone**  
January 14, 2011 – The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) hosted a reception on Wednesday for Francis J. Ricciardone, the newly appointed US Ambassador to Turkey. Leaders from the Turkish American community, as well as the Azerbaijani American, Bosniak American, and Macedonian American communities attended the event to wish Ambassador Ricciardone well as he departed for Ankara. [read]

**TCA 2011 Summer Internship Program**  
Application deadline extended to Feb. 18, 2011, 5pm EST  
The Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for its 2011 Washington Summer Internship Program. Since its inception in 2007, 56 Turkish Americans have been placed in internships with prestigious Congressional offices and non-profit organizations. [read]

**TCA NEWS & ISSUES**  
Black January Anniversary  
TCA Awards Major Grant to American Friends of Turkey  
TCA Congratulates Speaker Boehner and the 112th Congress  
H.Res. 252 Fails to Reach Floor  
WT/Wikileaks: Armenia Sent Arms to Iran  
NATO Disappoints Again on Macedonia  
Senate Needs to Confirm Ambassadors to Turkey and Azerbaijan  
Turkish Caucus Reaches All Time High of 125 Members  
Turkey's National Day by State Secretary Hillary Clinton  
TCA Ranks Third in Groups Sponsoring International

**TCA IN THE NEWS**  
TCA statement on Acdamar Mass Featured by Turkish media  
Tasarı büyük ihtimalle geçmez, ama... (in Turkish)  
Turkey salutes its first jazz department  
US congressmen to open Turkish jazz department  
ABD Kongre Heyeti Türkiye'yi Ziyaret Edecek  
TCA Raises Public Awareness on H.Res. 252  
African American-Turkish Connections through the Arts  
America's fastest growing Turkish American foundation  
Jewish Identity in the Turkic World  
Building a bridge between Native Americans and Turkey

**WHAT'S NEW**  
TCA Releases an Annotated Map of Forced Migration and Mortality in the Ottoman Empire  
TCA Applauds Appointment of New US Ambassador to Turkey  
Delegation Brings Together Turks and Native Americans  
U.S. Praises Turkish Trainers of Afghan Security Forces  
Free Inquiry Triumphs, Professor Guenter Lewy's Reputation Restored  
2010 TCA Advance Scholarship Recipients Announced  
New Scholarship Disputes Armenian "Genocide" Narrative and H.Res. 252

**TCA 2011 Summer Internship Program**

**TCA Advance Scholarship Program**

**TCA PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**TURKISH COALITION of AMERICA on YouTube**

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The TCA website is a constantly updated educational resource on issues concerning Turkish Americans and US-Turkey relations. In 2010, the website received over **301,000 visitors from 114 countries**. The website offers a media archive on issues related to Turkey, an extensive compilation of reference material, talking points, and a comprehensive resource and reading list on Turkey. TCA offers many of these resources for free to public and school libraries, as well as educational institutions.

TCA has continued to be the most mentioned Turkish American organization in the US media, and is consistently the go-to reference for reporters who are writing on issues relating to US – Turkey relations and the Turkish American community. **TCA received over 850 mentions in mainstream media outlets** in 2010, including being quoted in the Associated Press, Reuters, McClatchy Newspapers, the Washington Post, the Washington Times, Politico, National Journal, Congressional Quarterly, Roll Call, the Hill Newspaper, the LA Times, the Guardian (UK), and many other papers throughout the US, Turkey and the world. TCA has been featured on a number of different blogs and online media, including the widely read Huffington Post, and other prominent online media





Native American Delegation with Turkish Trade Minister Caglayan, Ankara, Turkey.

publications. TCA's president G. Lincoln McCurry has been featured multiple times on CNNTurk and Voice of America.

In May 2009, TCA launched its **TCA YouTube** channel. Videos produced for or listed on the TCA YouTube channel offer analysis by TCA and noted scholars on current issues, as well as coverage on TCA events. The videos have received over 37,560 viewings.

An effective media campaign around the first **TCA Native American Business Delegation**, the visit was on every major television and print publication in Turkey and in every major newspaper in the US.

During both the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the Resolution in March and the failed attempt to bring it for a vote during the lame-duck

session in December, TCA was the primary source of information for US reporters covering the issue, providing balance in coverage and helping the establish the Turkish American community as a stakeholder in this important legislative issue. TCA also began an **advertising campaign in Roll Call and Congressional Quarterly** that has helped to educate members of Congress and their staff on US – Turkey relations and the history of our nations' strong alliance. TCA also continued to support **TurkishNY**, a Turkish American online news portal by becoming a media sponsor and to offer free subscriptions to **Cornucopia** magazine, a widely acclaimed magazine on Turkish art and culture, to university libraries.

# Investing in Youth and Education

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*Realizing that Turkish Americans excel in all walks of life, but are often missing from the American civic and political life, TCA has instituted two signature youth programs.*

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## TCA Summer Internship Program

The **TCA Summer Internship Program** offers Turkish American college and graduate students the opportunity to work in congressional offices or select governmental and non-governmental organizations based in Washington, DC. This program is designed to enhance the participation of young Turkish Americans in political life and contribute to the preparation of future Turkish American political leaders.

After three years of partnering with TUSIAD-US, TCA took sole ownership of the program in 2010 and provided **22 Turkish Americans** the opportunity to intern in the nation's capital. These young Turkish Americans, like those who preceded them, not only benefitted greatly from witnessing how Washington works, but were great Ambassadors for the Turkish American community on Capitol Hill. This year, TCA interns worked in the offices of Congresspersons Alan Grayson (D-FL), Jean Schmidt (R-OH), Mike McMahon (D-NY), Alcee Hastings (D-GA), David Scott (D-GA), Dan Burton (R-IN), Steve Cohen (D-

TN), Tom Cole (R-OK), Ed Whitfield (R-KY), Gerry Connolly (D-VA), the Subcommittee on Europe and the Financial Services Committee and at several non-profit organizations. A total of **56 Turkish American students** have been given the opportunity to intern in Washington, DC through the Summer Internship Program since 2007.



TCA 2010 Washington Summer internship program group in front of the NRCC.



## Investing in Youth and Education



### TCAdvance Scholarship Program

The **TCAdvance Scholarship Program** offers a \$ 5000 annually renewable scholarship to Turkish American students who aspire to a career in public service, public relations, law or the media. Awarded to graduating high school seniors, college and graduate students, the TCAdvance Scholarship aims to recognize the academic achievements and leadership role of young Turkish Americans and to cultivate a new generation of leaders in our community.

Since the program's inception in 2007, TCA has granted scholarships to **48 Turkish Americans**. TCAdvance Scholars hail from the finest US colleges and stand out not only for their scholastic and personal achievements, but also for their dedication to their heritage and to community service. In 2010, the program received a record number of applications from accomplished young Turkish Americans from such prestigious schools as the University of Chicago, MIT, New York University and College of William and Mary. A total of **12 new and 11 renewal scholarships** were awarded under the 2010 program.

*“Turkish Coalition for America not only provides you the opportunity to meet the future of the Turkish community in the United States, but to take a leadership role in it. Whether it is by meeting Congressman Ron Paul during a private luncheon to co-hosting events with TCA for leading speakers from Turkey, TCA has allowed me to see my potential to benefit the Turkish American community, and has given me the will to take an active role in its progression.” - Can Gokcen, TCAdvance Scholar 2008–Present.*



## Investing in Youth and Education

### TCA Research Fellowships

In 2010 TCA awarded several grants, some original and some a continuation of grants offered in prior years, to promising scholars and researchers whose work the TCA finds particularly valuable to the advancement of knowledge on Turkey, its people, and their history, politics and culture.

TCA provided partial subvention for the book, *The Transnational Turn in American Studies: Voices from Turkey* to be published in 2011 by the Peter Lang Group. It will focus on the contributions of Turkey to American culture and highlight the current work being conducted by noted Turkish academics worldwide as well as by foreign scholars working in Turkey.

TCA supported graduate research by a former U.S. diplomat on the subject of Christian missionary activities in the late Ottoman Empire. The work focuses on the impact of missionaries in the creation and growth of nationalist movements within the late Ottoman Empire.

TCA also continued to support the work of recognized researchers in Ottoman history, allowing them to comb through greater volumes of archival material and synthesize results in a variety of publications. One of such research grants was awarded to **Justin McCarthy**, professor of history at University of Louisville to create a publication on mass population movements in the Ottoman Empire. As a result, Prof. McCarthy produced a new publication titled *Forced Migration and Mortality in the Ottoman Empire – An Annotated Map*, which was published by TCA in December 2010.

### TCA - University of Utah Turkish Studies Project

The Turkish Coalition of America provided a multi-year major grant to the **University of Utah in 2009**

to establish a new academic program on *The Origins of Modern Ethnic Cleansing: The Collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the Emergence of Nation States in the Balkans and Caucasus*. Under the leadership of its Director, **Prof. Hakan Yavuz**, this unique program is advancing scholarship on a critical period in a region that continues to make headlines, in part due to the turbulent forces unleashed in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. The program explores the shaping of modern Turkish identity through scholarly work, conferences, community participation, and support for new research, much of which focuses on a series of traumatic formative events including crises in the Balkans and the Caucasus, the loss of major territories, and forced migration that presaged the establishment of the Turkish Republic.

In 2009-10 the program included a conference on *The Empire to Nation-State: The post-Berlin Treaty and its Political Consequences*, which was held in April 2010 in Salt Lake City. In July a conference on, *The Sociopolitical Implications of the Dissolution of the Ottoman State: Causes of the Balkan Wars and the Role of the Ottoman State* was held in Istanbul. Both were well attended and resulted in the publication of their proceedings. The program also provided support to four graduate students whose work is being undertaken in several languages, Turkish, Azeri-Turkish, Armenian, and Arabic. In late 2010, the program welcomed its first post-graduate scholar who will conduct research into the Ottoman elements of Balkan history. Planning toward a conference focusing on this subject is underway.

The program made great strides in publication support in 2010, assisting publication of three books: **Justin McCarthy's** study on the construction of the Turkish image in the U.S., *The Turk in America: The Creation of an Enduring Prejudice*; **Yucel Guclu's** *Armenians and the Allies in Cilicia, 1914-1923*; and, **Michael Gunter's** *Politicization of the Armenian 'Genocide' Claims* to be published soon by Palgrave.

# Building Bridges

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*TCA's commitment to establishing cross-cultural bridges with American minority communities in the United States manifests itself in a variety of programs.*

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*"My two visits to Istanbul [on TCA scholarships] were some of the best times of my life. During both visits, I experienced the genuine hospitality of the Turkish people, tasted the delicious cuisine, and saw many of Turkey's beautiful sights. This country is definitely a hidden gem for travelers looking to spend time in Europe/Asia." Josh Lykes, Washington University in St. Louis – Bogazici University.*

*"Istanbul had everything to offer. There were world-famous historical sites and museums both depicting and narrating Turkey's rich history dating back to the period of the Ottoman Empire; sports facilities filled with the wildest fans that would put Steelers fans to shame, all the way down to an incredible nightlife culture... With organizations like TCA who encourage minority students to study abroad in Turkey, the resources are endless. I am incredibly grateful to TCA and the wonderful hospitality of the branch in Istanbul." Salem Tsegaye, Duke University – Bogazici.*

*"TCA's scholarship enabled me to travel to Turkey, where I studied the language and history, familiarized myself with the culture, and visited the cities and villages of my ancestors." Aleksan Giragosian, UC Irvine – Bogazici University.*

## Scholarships and Educational Exchanges

The leading program in this area is the **TCA Study Abroad in Turkey Scholarship for Minority Students**. This program offers up to **100 scholarships per year** to **African American, Hispanic American and Native American** college students who are accepted to a study abroad program in Turkey, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus or Bosnia and Herzegovina. The program has seen a steep increase in applications since its inception in 2008. In its first year, TCA awarded a total of 5 scholarships to eligible minority students. The number of scholarships awarded in 2009 reached 25. **In 2010, 69 scholarships were awarded, bringing the total number of recipients to 99.**

In support of the ongoing diplomatic and political dialogue between Turkey and Armenia, TCA established a **Study Abroad Scholarship program for Armenian American college students**, who wish to study in Turkey or the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The program has awarded **5 scholarships to eligible students of Armenian descent in 2010.**



TCA's first scholarship recipient Josh Lykes at Ephesus, Izmir, Turkey.

TCA has also invested in creating **academic bridges** between **Turkish universities** and **Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges** and other **Minority Serving Institutions**.

In 2008 and 2009, TCA has organized and sponsored two academic tours for educators from these institutions to Turkey. TCA also organized a lecture tour on Turkish foreign policy by

## Building Bridges

*“Turkey is a country of great diversities and wonderful splashes. It is an endless source of exploration and inspiration. I enjoyed the warm blooded attitude and hospitality of people and delicious deserts from East; contemporary art and urban life from West and the melody of Turkish language, which I was grasping as much as possible.” Armine Avetisyan, State Pedagogical Institute of Gyumri – Tomer Language Center Istanbul.*

*“The TCA scholarship has kept me connected to my Turkish heritage and has reminded me of the importance of preserving such a rich and distinguished culture. My work for the TCA helps me appreciate the intercultural and international discourse that has been brought upon us by globalization and new technology. Today, organizations like the TCA are indispensable in furthering these discourses to ensure a better tomorrow.” – Jem V. Griffith, TCA Advance Scholar 2008-present*

*“Throughout my involvement in Turkish American affairs, TCA has always been available for support. They have provided me with documents for my Congressional visits, helped me lead the way toward organizing grassroots activism, and – perhaps most importantly – been more than willing to sit down and listen to my projects and ideas.” Inci Atrek, TCA Advance Scholar 2007-2009.*



Congressman Jim Moran, TCA President Lincoln McCurdy, TCA Vice President Basak Kizildemir with TCA minority scholarship recipients at Bahcesehir University.

Ambassador (Ret.) Faruk Logoglu, former Turkish Ambassador to the United States and former Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, who lectured on US-Turkey relations and Turkish foreign policy issues at Howard University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Winston-Salem State University, Spelman College and Morehouse College, leading historically black colleges in the United States. In mid-2009, TCA organized and co-sponsored a study tour of Turkish educators to meet with administrators, educators and community leaders from various minority groups in the United States. These educational tours have laid the foundation for long-term exchanges between Turkish and US universities. Specifically, they have resulted in full tuition scholarships for the Spring and Fall semesters offered by **Bahcesehir University to 8 students of African American, Hispanic American and Native American heritage and 10 comprehensive scholarships exclusively for Native American students per semester offered by Istanbul Technical University.** The TCA initiative also resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Bahcesehir University and the United Negro College Fund Special Programs and institutional talks on student and faculty exchanges between Turkish universities and Howard University, Winston Salem State University, Northern Arizona University, Institute of American Indian Arts and the South Dakota State University.

TCA's growing collaboration with Native American tribes to build educational bridges has in the past year paved the way for Turkish and Native American communities to explore business



opportunities under TCA's leadership. To that end, TCA met with the **Turkish State Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr. Zafer Caglayan**, on three separate occasions in the United States and facilitated the appointment of the first honorary representative of the Hopi Tribe in Arizona to Turkey. Continued cultivation of ties with Native American tribes across the US, as well as multiple meetings held with Minister Caglayan paved the way for TCA's first ever **Native American Business Cooperation Delegation trip to Turkey** in early November. The trip coincided with the Turkish Airlines' inaugural flight from Washington, DC to Istanbul. **20 Native American tribal, business and educational representatives from 17 tribes in 11 states** traveled to Turkey on this historic flight to explore business opportunities between Turkey and sovereign nations in the United States.

*"The people of Istanbul feel the Native Americans and people of Turkey have a kind of connection, including similarities with their language and Native languages."*  
James H. Steele, Jr. Chairman of the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council.

### Heritage Partnerships

To highlight the historical heritage and contemporary bonds of friendship of the Turkish people with its kin and neighbors, TCA has established special partnerships with the Bosniak and Macedonian communities in the United States. TCA has pledged to provide multi-year grants to the Bosniak American Advisory Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BAACBH) and the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD). The TCA grants are designed as matching donations, up to \$ 50,000 annually to match private donations collected by these two groups. The TCA funds have been designated to support the organizational capacity of these national Bosniak and Macedonian organizations and support their efforts to establish their communities' voices in Washington, DC. In 2010, TCA provided \$26,758 to BAACBH and \$50,000 to UMD.

*"BAACBH is thankful for TCA's continued support in the form of a generous multi-year matching grant. This grant has enabled BAACBH to hire a full-time Executive Director and to educate the United States policymakers on the important issues facing Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The grant also enables BAACBH to advocate on behalf of Bosnian-Americans in Washington, D.C. TCA's generous support has made it possible for U.S. Congressional staff to visit BiH in 2010 and allowed U.S. Congressional staff members to learn more about BiH's culture, people and issues that are facing the country. TCA's continued support and cooperation helps BAACBH in its effort to promote peace and economic development in the Balkans by fostering democratic policy, promoting respect for human rights, and initiating educational and developmental programs." Admir Serifovic, BAACBH President.*

*"Since 2008, TCA and the United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) partnership has set a new historic testament to relations between the Turkish and Macedonian people and Turkey and Macedonia, carrying on the vision of Ataturk, who we are proud has roots from Macedonia. TCA's grant to UMD has helped us become the leading Macedonian organization in the United States and the world. As a result, UMD has the necessary tools to better effectively communicate its message, thus more actively, before policymakers, diplomats, and international community. TCA and UMD's partnership can be seen not only in the United States but also through the strengthening of Turkey-Macedonia bilateral relations in the last three years, politically, economically and culturally – an excellent model for relations among all Southeast European nations." Metodija A. Koloski, Co-Founder and President, United Macedonian Diaspora.*



## Building Bridges

### Humanitarian Partnerships

#### Chaldean Iraqi Refugees Grant

In an effort to alleviate the suffering of thousands of Iraq's war torn and displaced Iraqi Christian refugees in Turkey, in 2009 the Turkish Coalition of America pledged a \$ 100,000 humanitarian grant to the Chaldean Federation of America (CFA), headquartered in Detroit, Michigan. Under this humanitarian program, administered jointly with the Istanbul-based Turkish Chaldean-Assyrian-Syriac Humanitarian Organization (KASDER), humanitarian aid, particularly food and medicine, is provided to Christian refugees from Iraq who live in Turkey. TCA has provided a total of \$40,000 of this grant in 2010.

*"The Chaldean Federation of America is grateful to the Turkish American Community for the well thought and just in time humanitarian aid grant towards the immediate needs of the thousands of displaced Iraqi Chaldeans scattered throughout Turkey. CFA will continue to work with TCA to ensure adequate humanitarian relief and protection to those who need it the most." Joseph T. Kassab, Executive Director, Chaldean Federation of America.*

*"The Iraqi refugee crisis continues to be one of the world's most pressing humanitarian concerns. The work that the Chaldean Federation of America is doing to serve this vulnerable population is of critical importance, and helps contribute to the overall stability and security of the region. I extend my gratitude to the Turkish Coalition of America for providing this grant, and look forward to working with both of these organizations to help address the needs of Iraqis refugees and internally displaced people." Congressman Gary Peters (D-MI)*

*"As KASDER we are very grateful to TCA for their generous support. Through this financial help we have been able to reach to 500 extremely needy Iraqi Chaldean refugees in Turkey and supported them with essential items." Teoman Onder, Chairman, KASDER.*

#### Haiti Earthquake Relief Grant

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, TCA sought the advice of Congressman Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) who both represent districts with the highest number of Haitian Americans. Congressman Hastings helped TCA to identify Cross International, which is an organization that has a proven track record of providing relief assistance for natural disasters throughout the world. TCA made a \$25,000 donation to Cross International to aid in their relief efforts.



G. Lincoln McCurdy with Congresswoman Lehtinen, her Chief of Staff, Art Estopinan and Joe Pena, United Way.

## Building Bridges



Fuat Ornarli, member of the Florida Turkish American community, Joe Pena, United Way of Miami-Dade, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen G. Lincoln McCurdy, President of TCA, Serap-Odabas Yigit, member of the Florida Turkish American community.

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen recommended that TCA work with “Operation Helping Hands,” which is a joint venture between the Miami Herald and the United Way of Miami-Dade. TCA provided Operation Helping Hands with a \$25,000 donation at an event with the Congresswoman and members of the organizations involved in the project. In November of 2010, a cholera outbreak hit Haiti as a result of the living conditions created by the earthquake’s aftermath. TCA contacted Operation Helping Hands to join efforts to combat the outbreak. TCA has agreed to support these efforts to provide clean water and medication with a donation of \$50,000. This is enough to purchase 2 water purification devices that will provide drinking water for thousands of Haitians and antibiotics for hundreds of those impacted by the disease. The donation ceremony is scheduled to take place on February 2, 2011.

*“I commend the Turkish Coalition of America for their generous donation to Cross International. This donation will undoubtedly help the people of Haiti in their daily struggles for survival as they rebuild their country.” Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)*

*“This generous contribution from our friends at the Turkish Coalition for America will go a long way in helping earthquake-ravaged Haiti. It is through efforts such as this, along with government-sponsored programs, that we can help the hardworking Haitian people lift themselves from the devastation wrought by this calamity. Haiti has lived through many turbulent moments throughout its history, and with the help of organizations such as this, she will rise once more.” Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).*

*“We are grateful to the Turkish Coalition of America for reaching out to our Haitian neighbors through Operation Helping Hands. Through our strong partnerships with nonprofit organizations currently working on the ground in Haiti, these funds will assist the island through the long and difficult process of rebuilding and recovering.” Harve A. Mogul, president and CEO, United Way of Miami-Dade.*

## In the Community

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*Since its foundation, TCA has supported national Turkish American organizations in their efforts to strengthen the Turkish American community's civic engagement and its voice in Washington.*

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### Supporting Turkish American Civic Engagement

For a second year, TCA has committed two major grants, in the amount of \$ 100,000 each, to the **Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA)** and the **Federation of Turkish American Associations (FTAA)** to underwrite their grassroots education programs for 2009-2010. These grants are designed to build capacity of ATAA and FTAA, enabling the two organizations to hire full-time staff designated to implement grassroots strategies and to educate, as well as engage an increasing number of Turkish Americans in advocacy activities.

As a component of this program, over 10 advocacy trainings were conducted nationwide, reaching over 200 Turkish Americans. These trainings served to motivate Turkish Americans to increase their participation in civic engagement. In addition, Turkish American communities in Detroit, Chicago and Los Angeles were chosen as pilot regions through a mini-grant process to receive targeted technical support and resources to build their grassroots capacity.

TCA has also provided event sponsorships and grants totaling over \$ 25,000 in 2010 to other Turkish American organizations in pursuit of common goals. **The Pittsburgh Turkish American Association** received support for a pilot project to survey the demographic and civic characteristics of the Turkish American community. In addition, the **Istanbul University Alumni Association US**, **Paxturcica** and the **Azerbaijan Society of America** received funding support for various civic engagement events, cultural and educational programs. Reaching across the border, TCA sponsored for the second year the **Council of Turkish Canadians' Annual Youth Conference**.

*"TCA has planted the seeds of Turkish American grassroots by funding ATAA and FTAA civic engagement programs nationwide. The training has resulted in effective advocacy on issues critical to the Turkish American community and US-Turkish relations. Learning the tools of advocacy and learning how to use them effectively, the Turkish American community is becoming a key heritage community in America." Gunay Evinch, President, Assembly of Turkish American Associations; Kaya Boztepe, President, Federation of Turkish American Associations.*



# Defending Turkish American Rights

*TCA established Turkish American Legal Defense Fund (www.taldf.org) in 2009 to protect and defend free speech, expression, assembly, and other constitutional or legal rights of Turkish Americans.*

During 2010, TALDF scored a string of victories. It also continued its mission of encouraging Turkish Americans to participate in American civil society and political processes without fear, intimidation, bigotry, prejudice, or discrimination.

Among this year's highlights: **In Krikorian v. Ohio Elections Commission and Krikorian v. Schmidt**, TALDF defeated attempts to overturn **Congresswoman Jean Schmidt's** 2009 victory in which she proved that her political opponent maliciously lied by alleging her receipt of illegal campaign contributions from pro-Turkish sources. TALDF is currently representing Rep. Schmidt in a companion defamation case pivoting on the identical lies found by the Ohio Elections Commission. **In Lewy v. SPLC**, **TALDF achieved a settlement favorable to Professor Lewy**. SPLC published a written retraction and apology stating that it had no basis to allege the existence of Turkish government funding of Prof. Lewy's scholarship on the Turkish-Armenian controversy. SPLC added that they have no reason to assume that any scholarship that takes a contra-genocide view in this controversy must be supported by the Turkish government. Prof. Lewy also received financial payment from SPLC.

TALDF filed a report with the U.S. government enumerating actions and ideology of an Armenian American group (ANCA) as a "hate group" as understood by the FBI. In **TCA and S. Cingilli v. University of Minnesota**, TALDF is challenging whether a state university can maintain a list of "unreliable websites" that casts Turkish oriented informational websites as engaging in genocide and Holocaust denial pursuant to non-educational standards lacking due process to challenge the correctness of a defamatory listing. The list was dismantled on the eve of filing suit, but damages for past harm and attorney's fees remain in dispute. TALDF drafted written testimony to oppose a California Senate bill that contained factual falsehoods and was otherwise unconstitutional. Additionally, TALDF attorneys participated in several conferences and spoke to student groups nationally.

In 2010, the Turkish Coalition of America provided TALDF with \$618,390.20 in funding to pursue its mission.

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**ANOTHER TALDF TRIUMPH:**  
Federal Court Affirms Ohio Elections Commission Rulings that David Krikorian Maliciously Lied About Jean Schmidt, Turkish Americans, and the Government of Turkey

November 3, 2010, Washington, DC - During the 2007-08 election cycle, Armenian American David Krikorian attempted to lie his way to victory over incumbent Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (R-OH). In the waning hours of the campaign with no time for a response, Krikorian alleged that Schmidt had accepted illegal contributions from supposed Turkish government-sponsored political action committees. He further maintained that the Congresswoman accepted campaign funds in exchange for a promise to refuse co-sponsorship of H. Res. 106, a resolution that would validate the Armenian allegation of genocide. Rep. Schmidt filed suit against Krikorian at the Ohio Elections Commission (OEC) for making nine false statements. In October 2009, the commission determined that Krikorian knowingly and maliciously lied with regard to at least three of the statements Schmidt challenged. H. Res 106 never came to a vote on the House floor.

Krikorian first appealed the OEC ruling in state court. He concurrently sued in federal court, seeking to enjoin the OEC from enforcing Ohio laws against intentional false statements in political campaigns on the preposterous ground that the First Amendment guarantees a right to lie about political candidates. Krikorian's state court appeal was dismissed and not pursued further. On October 19, the federal court dismissed his remaining appeal. Relying in large part on *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37 (1971), Judge Susan J. Dlott ruled that abstention was required because Krikorian could have advanced all of his constitutional claims in the state court appeal; that the OEC was constitutionally empowered to sanction intentionally false statements in federal election campaigns; and, that the core assertion in every statement Krikorian argued was protected speech had been found false and malicious by clear and convincing evidence by the OEC, and could not be reconsidered by a federal court.

Seeking to defend her good name against Armenian American intimidation, Rep. Schmidt has filed a multi-count civil defamation lawsuit in state court in Ohio. That case is pending. In these matters, Rep. Schmidt has been represented by the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund (Bruce Fein and David Saltzman), aided by local Counsel Chester, Wilcox & Saxbe (Don Brey). Krikorian's lead counsel have been Christopher Finney and Mark Geragos.

**ISSUES & CASES**

- Free Inquiry Triumphs, Prof. Guenter Lewy's Reputation Restored
- Congresswoman Schmidt Sues Former Opponent for Defamation
- TALDF Statement Regarding: SR 31
- TALDF Challenges Electronic Book Burning
- TALDF Scores Significant Victory Before Ohio Elections Commission
- Statement of TALDF Regarding: Senate Bill 234, as Amended
- TALDF Takes Action Against Offensively-named Product
- TALDF Declares Legislative Victory in Sacramento
- TALDF Statement in Opposition to CA Assembly Bill AB 961
- TALDF Stands for Free Speech on US Campuses
- TALDF Requests Criminal Investigation in Ohio
- TALDF Assists Judicial Victory for Uighur Detainees
- Turkish Americans Stand Up For Free Speech in New Jersey
- TALDF Case Study: Springfield, New Jersey Part II
- Why TALDF Ran An Ad in Roll Call
- Scholar Sues SPLC for Falsely Accusing him of Being a Foreign Agent
- Project One: Freedom of Expression

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# In Congress

## Strengthening the Voice of Turkish Americans

TCA strengthens the voice of Turkish Americans through monitoring legislation that concerns the community and enabling Turkish Americans to use the **TCA Action Alert Center** to contact their members of Congress. The TCA Action Alert Center has also been provided free of charge to other Turkish American organizations, as well as partners of TCA. In 2010, the TCA Action Alert Center's was activated over the Armenian Resolutions, providing thousands of Turkish Americans and friends of Turkey easy access to their elected representatives.

TCA also regularly provides information and analyses to members of Congress and their staff through TCA Issue Papers sent via fax and e-mail bulletins. In 2010, 75 TCA Issue Papers, covering important issue related to Turkey and US-Turkey relations have been published.

## Supporting the Turkish Caucus

TCA has made it a prime objective for the Turkish American community to increase the membership of the Congressional Caucus on **US-Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans**. The hitherto unpublished membership of the Turkish Caucus was made public by TCA in 2007 and the Caucus' membership reached a **historical high of 125 in 2010, over one quarter of the House of Representatives, representing 40 US states and territories**.

TCA has engaged members of the Turkish Caucus in new and creative ways. TCA has sponsored numerous events relating to the mission of the Turkish Caucus, facilitated the participation of Turkish Caucus members in Turkish American events, promoted the work of its individual members and has integrated TCA programs, such as its minority scholarships and cultural programs with the members' own constituent services.

**Members of Caucus on US Turkish Relations & Turkish Americans**

The Turkish Caucus is a bi-partisan platform for members of Congress to focus on US-Turkish relations and issues that concern Turkish Americans.

	Co-Chair <b>Ed Whitfield</b> (R-KY)		Congressman <b>Jim Gerlach</b> (R-PA)		Congressman <b>Jared Polis</b> (D-CO)
	Co-Chair <b>Stephen Cohen</b> (D-TN)		Co-Chair <b>Kay Granger</b> (R-TX)		Congressman <b>David Price</b> (D-NC)
	Congressman <b>Gerry Connolly</b> (D-VA)		Congressman <b>Gene Green</b> (D-TX)		Congressman <b>Mike Quigley</b> (D-IL)
	Congresswoman <b>Virginia Foxx</b> (R-NC)		Congressman <b>Brett Guthrie</b> (R-KY)		Congressman <b>Nick Rahall</b> (D-WV)
	Congressman <b>Robert Aderholt</b> (R-AL)		Congressman <b>Alcee Hastings</b> (D-FL)		Congressman <b>Denny Rehberg</b> (R-MT)
	Congressman <b>Rodney Alexander</b> (R-LA)		Congressman <b>Jeb Hensarling</b> (R-TX)		Congressman <b>Silvestre Reyes</b> (D-TX)
	Congressman <b>Spencer Bachus</b> (R-AL)		Congressman <b>Wally Herger</b> (R-CA)		Congressman <b>Dana Rohrabacher</b> (R-CA)
	Congressman <b>Roscoe G. Bartlett</b> (R-MD)		Congressman <b>Jim Himes</b> (D-CT)		Congressman <b>Todd Rokita</b> (R-IN)
	Congressman <b>Joe Barton</b> (R-TX)		Congressman <b>Tim Holden</b> (D-PA)		Congressman <b>Dennis Ross</b> (R-FL)
	Congressman <b>Howard Berman</b> (D-CA)		Congressman <b>Rush Holt</b> (D-NJ)		Congresswoman <b>Ileana Ros-Lehtinen</b> (R-FL)

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*Since May 2009, when TCA organized its first Congressional Delegation to Turkey, TCA has become the third largest organizer of foreign travel for members of Congress and staff.*

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*Art Estopinan, Chief of Staff for House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL): “Participating on the Congressional Trip sponsored by the Turkish Coalition of America to Turkey and Macedonia was informative, instructive, and gave our Congressional Staff Delegation a on the ground first hand look on how US-Turkish relations can grow.”*

*Joshua Rogin, Chief of Staff for former Congressman Robert Wexler (now for Congressman Ted Deutch) (D-FL): “The staffidel is a vital resource to inform congressional staffers about the essential bilateral relationship between the United States and Turkey and to put staffers in the midst of the vibrant and modern nation of Turkey that is simply impossible through mere briefings and books.”*

## Congressional Delegations to Turkey

According to a report published by **U.S. News and World Report**, TCA is the second largest ethnic/regional organization on the list, headed by the American Israel Education Foundation, an affiliate of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). The Aspen Institute, a non-partisan think-tank ranks second and the German Marshall Fund ranks fourth on the list of sponsors of foreign congressional travel.

The first congressional TCA delegation of 2010 was organized in February 2010 when TCA took a bi-partisan delegation of **17 senior staffers** to Turkey. The group visited Ankara and Istanbul, meeting with government officials, civil society representatives, academicians and journalists.



February 2010 Congressional Staff Delegation in front of Anitkabir, Ankara, Turkey.

In March 2010, TCA took **Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD)**, **Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA)**, and **Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY)** to Turkey. The delegation followed a busy itinerary split between Ankara, Istanbul and Bursa. In addition to high-level meetings in Ankara, the delegation also attended the opening of the first Jazz Conservatory at Hacettepe University in Ankara and was hosted by Bahcesehir University for an interactive session on US-Turkey relations.



## In Congress



March 2010 Congressmembers with Melis Sokmen at Hacettepe University's Jazz Conservatory Opening, Ankara, Turkey.

In June 2010, TCA organized a visit for **Congresswoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC)** and 5 senior staffers hailing from the House Democratic Caucus, House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The delegation's busy itinerary in Ankara and Istanbul included meeting with government officials, civil society representatives, academicians and journalists. Congresswoman Foxx also addressed faculty and students at Bahcesehir University during the Global Leadership Forum. Added by TCA as a must-see stop to congressional itineraries, this delegation also visited Patara, capital of the ancient Lycian Federation, whose representational form of government inspired the founding fathers and was adopted into the United States Constitution.

In July 2010, TCA sponsored a bi-partisan delegation to **Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey, consisting of 24 senior staffers**. The delegation traveled to Sarajevo and Srebrenica within a day and a half and met with top-level government officials and high-level civil and military international representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the **Chairman of the Presidential Council, the Prime Minister and Ambassadors of the U.S. and Turkey**. While in Bosnia, the delegation was joined by 20 participants from Turkey, including journalists, academics, Balkan policy experts, and a member of Turkish Parliament. Acting as gracious hosts and working with TCA to



August 2010 Congressional Staff Delegation with Turkish Jewish leaders in Neve Salom Synagogue - Istanbul, Turkey.

secure the Bosnia program were representatives of **the Bosniak American Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina**. On the portion of the visit to Turkey, in addition to a schedule packed with meetings, the delegation traveled to Patara and Canakkale, visiting the ruins of Troy and the Gallipoli War Memorial.

TCA organized a highly successful visit to **Macedonia and Turkey for 18 senior staffers** in August 2010. The two-day program in Macedonia consisted of high-level meetings with government officials, including the **President, Foreign Minister and Defense Minister of the Republic of Macedonia** and other high-level Macedonian officials. The U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia and his staff and the Turkish Embassy also briefed the delegation. The Macedonia visit was organized with the help of the **United Macedonian Diaspora**, whose President accompanied the delegation. Joined by a group of 12 Turkish academicians and Balkan policy experts, the group had the opportunity to visit the Ataturk Museum in Bitola (Manastir) and travel to Ohrid, where the meeting with the Macedonian President took place. The itinerary in Turkey was equally busy, consisting of meetings with government officials, civil society representatives, academicians and journalists. A highlight of this trip was a visit with Turkish Jewish leaders in Istanbul's Nev Salom Synagogue.

TCA's final sponsored congressional travel of 2010 was a 2-day addition to the Franklin Center's Annual Transatlantic Conference in Turkey. Following the end of this conference, **Congressman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI)** participated in a TCA-organized day excursion to Canakkale (Troy and Gallipoli) and took part in meetings regarding bilateral trade and business growth opportunities in Istanbul with the U.S. Consul General and influential Turkish business leaders.

*"The July 2010 staffdel to Turkey was an educational and enlightening experience. The schedule, packed with very informative and interesting tours and briefings on history, culture and government, provided a comprehensive introduction to a country that is emerging as an important player on the national stage. Beril Ünver was the perfect guide, supplementing our meetings and tours with further insight and perspective on the issues at hand. My only disappointment was that I couldn't stay another week!" -Kristie Greco, Communications Director for House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC)*

*"I was honored to be a participant in the 2010 Staffdel to Turkey to learn more about the country and its relationship with the United States. Both the TCA representatives and the meetings and events we attended were informative and memorable, and I left Turkey with a greater understanding of its history and culture." - Blair Milligan, Legislative Director for Congressman Mike McIntyre (D-NC)*

*"Traveling with the Turkish Coalition of America was an experience I will never forget. I saw firsthand the political, cultural, educational and historical significance this fascinating region has to offer the rest of the world." - Kyle Oliver, Legislative Director for Congressman Ralph Hall (R-TX)*

*"The TCA trip to Bosnia and Turkey was a rewarding and enriching experience. It not only exposed us to modern Turkey, but also gave us an opportunity to learn about the rich Ottoman history." -Nida Zaman, Financial Affairs Legislative Assistant for Congressman Andre Carson (D-IN)*

*"TCA provides a comprehensive experience that allows participants to experience both high level politics and everyday life in Turkey." -Todd Washam, Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant for Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI)*



TCA Congressional Delegation at the Atatürk Memorial at Conkbayiri, Gallipoli, Turkey.



July 2010 Congressional Staff Delegation in front of the Church of St. Kliment in Ohrid, Macedonia.



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