

February 1, 2012

**Roger Ailes** 

Chairman

**FOX News Channel** 

1211 Ave of the Americas

New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Ailes,

Last week, the Turkish Coalition of America, which educates the general public about Turkey and Turkish Americans and helps share the opinions of the country's more than 500,000 Turkish Americans, learned that your parent company, News Corporation, is bidding to buy Sabah-ATV, one of Turkey's largest media outlets. We write to express our concern given recent alarming views expressed on and seemingly endorsed by FOX News.

As you know, during the FOX News-hosted Republican Presidential Primary Debate in South Carolina on Jan. 17, FOX News' Bret Baier recited a litany of out-of-context statistics arranged to paint Turkey in the worst possible light, and then suggested to Texas Governor Rick Perry that such statistics might indicate that Turkey, one of the United States' most robust NATO allies, no longer deserved to be a member of NATO. Led on by this outrageous question, Governor Perry responded in a manner that nearly caused an international incident, accusing Turkey's democratically elected government of acting like "Islamic terrorists" and suggesting that Turkey should be expelled from NATO.

Taken together, FOX News' question and the candidate's response shocked and alarmed Turkish Americans and the people of Turkey. Though this was a single broadcast, as you well know, in this global and interconnected world, everyone is listening. The negative impact of this single broadcast, therefore, should not be underestimated.

## **Turkish Coalition of America**



We do not believe that your network is anti-Turkish. And though we acknowledge the general separation between your corporate policies and editorial opinions, we would like you to conclusively lay our concerns, and the concerns of all Turkish Americans, to rest. In order to do so, we request a meeting with you or your senior FOX News executives so that we can personally convey our concerns, talk about issues related to Turkey and establish a dialogue between the Turkish American community and FOX News to prevent future incidents which do not benefit any reasonable party.

We look forward to your response, and hope that you will support us in addressing these concerns that have roiled the Turkish American community and angered many in Turkey.

Sincerely,

G. Lincoln McCurdy

President

Turkish Coalition of America

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