

## Enrolled

# House Joint Memorial 16

Sponsored by Representatives WEIDNER, HOYLE, WILLIAMSON; Representatives BARRETO, BOONE, GILLIAM, HACK, HELM, KENNEMER, KENY-GUYER, MCLANE, NOSSE, POST, READ, VEGA PEDERSON, WITT

To the President of the United States, the President of Turkey, the United States Secretary of State, the United States Ambassador to Turkey, the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas recent arrests and detainment of journalists in Turkey were authorized by laws passed in Turkish Parliament; and

Whereas the new laws allow search of individuals, vehicles and homes and seizure of property based on suspicion of crimes against the government such as establishing, heading or being a member of a terrorist organization or trying to seize control of the state; and

Whereas these laws were approved by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan; and

Whereas one such raid carried out under the new laws came one year after corruption allegations against President Erdogan and his allies emerged; and

Whereas many of those arrested are newspaper journalists, television producers and script writers who are seen as reporting on information critical of President Erdogan's government; and

Whereas among those arrested were Ekrem Dumanli, editor-in-chief of the Zaman daily newspaper, and Samanyolu Broadcasting Group General Manager Hidayet Karaca; and

Whereas foreign journalists have not been immune to arrest, detainment, harassment and expulsion from Turkey, including Cable News Network's Ivan Watson; and

Whereas such targeted detainment of journalists is at odds with Turkish constitutional principles and creates a more authoritarian government; and

Whereas such actions are undermining principles of free speech, which are the cornerstone of democratic societies supporting freedom of expression and freedom of the press; and

Whereas Turkey has been both a close ally to the United States and a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since 1952; and

Whereas Turkey's detainment and suppression of journalists is troubling to Turkey's NATO allies; and

Whereas the United States Department of State issued the following statement about the raids: "Media freedom, due process, and judicial independence are key elements in every healthy democracy and are enshrined in the Turkish constitution. As Turkey's friend and ally, we urge the Turkish authorities to ensure their actions do not violate these core values and Turkey's own democratic foundations"; and

Whereas the European Parliament adopted a resolution on January 15, 2015, on freedom of expression in Turkey, criticizing police raids and detention of journalists and stating that there is a "diminishing tolerance of public protest and critical media" in Turkey; and

Whereas it is important to maintain a strong relationship between Turkey and the international community, especially during these times when stability and adherence to democratic principles are most needed; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, urge the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of State to work with Turkish diplomats, the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies to remove recent judicial laws signed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that have led to the mass arrest and detainment of journalists in Turkey; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the President of Turkey, to the United States Secretary of State, to the United States Ambassador to Turkey, to the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, to the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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Adopted by House May 28, 2015

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 29, 2015

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate