

# 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

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to work with Turkish diplomats, European Union and NATO allies to stop mass arrests and detainment of journalists in Turkey.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the President of the United States, the President of Turkey, the United States Secretary of State,  
3 the United States Ambassador to Turkey, the Turkish Ambassador to the United States, the  
4 Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the High Representative of the  
5 European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Senate and the House of Rep-  
6 resentatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Whereas such targeted detainment of journalists is at odds with Turkish constitutional princi-  
24 ples and creates a more authoritarian government; and

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

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

29 Whereas Turkey's detainment and suppression of journalists is troubling to Turkey's NATO al-  
30 lies; and

31 Whereas the United States Department of State issued the following statement about the raids:

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 “Media freedom, due process, and judicial independence are key elements in every healthy democ-  
2 racy and are enshrined in the Turkish constitution. As Turkey’s friend and ally, we urge the Turkish  
3 authorities to ensure their actions do not violate these core values and Turkey’s own democratic  
4 foundations”; and

5 Whereas the European Parliament adopted a resolution on January 15, 2015, on freedom of ex-  
6 pression in Turkey, criticizing police raids and detention of journalists and stating that there is a  
7 “diminishing tolerance of public protest and critical media” in Turkey; and

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

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

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

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

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