Report on the Fourth International Conference on EU, Turkey, and the Kurds

The European Union Turkey Civic Commission (EUTCC) held its fourth international conference on EU, Turkey, and the Kurds on December 3-4, 2007 in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. The aim of EUTCC is evaluating the readiness of Turkey to join the EU. Many invited Kurdish, Turkish and international experts gave a report on the latest development in Turkey in regard to this country's human rights record since the last conference. According to the majority of the speakers Turkey has not made a significant progress in term of respecting human rights of the Kurdish people in East Anatolia.

Kurdish National Congress of North America (KNC-NA) has always welcomed the efforts of EUTCC in promoting human rights in Turkey, which would affect half of the Kurdish population of the greater Kurdistan.

This year the chair of Pubic Relation Committee of Kurdish National Congress was invited to the conference as an observer. He expressed his gratitude to organizers and sponsors of the conference for their courage to promote equality in Anatolia.

Mrs. Zana, Mr. Turk, and Mr. Ozcur were among the first panelists. During the discussion, our representative praised the remarks of Layal Zana on identity and pointed out that the example of inaccurate identity is reflected the name of the panelist Mr. Turk, a current Kurdish parliamentarian; he then humorously suggested in order for Turkey to be trusted, Mr. Ozcur, the former Turkish diplomat should change his name to Mr. Kurd. He also suggested the EU- Turkey Civic Commission needs to be changed to EU-Anatolia Civic Commission, to avoid any misunderstanding.

The summery of the conference was put in a final resolution which is published at: http://www.eutcc.org/articles/1/17/document348.ehtml

Considering the lack of progress in Turkey, the chair of Public Relations of KNC-NA reminded the experts that deadlines and proper consequences for not meeting them are essential in assuring behavioral changes that are expressed in the resolution. He suggested if Turkey does not follow the recommendations of EUTCC, it is the moral obligation of European Parliament to promote independence of Kurdistan.

Public Relations Committee
Kurdish National Congress of North America
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