



**Rodos, İstanköy ve Onikiada Türkleri Kültür ve Dayanışma Derneği/ Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association**

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OSCE

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

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Warsaw National Stadium, Warsaw

WORKING SESSION 6: Fundamental freedoms II, including: – Freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief

Name of the Organization: Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association

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### **GREECE PLUNDERS TURKISH ARTEFACTS BELONGING TO FOUNDATIONS IN RHODES AND KOS.**

Dear Moderator,  
Distinguished representatives,  
And esteemed NGO Delegates,

There are many historical buildings belonging to the Turkish foundations in the islands of Rhodes and Kos, which were under the rule of Ottoman Empire for 390 years. However, historical buildings and monuments in the islands were taken from the Turkish population in the islands on various grounds and were left for destruction in time or used for different purposes.

The following aspects are mentioned about the foundations in the report prepared by the Human Rights Without Borders International<sup>1</sup>:

- Greece does not comply with the Paris Convention stipulating free voting of Turks in Rhodes and Kos for administration of foundations.
- The goods of foundations are granted or sold lower price than their current values by foundations administrators assigned by Greece authorities.

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Fautre, Willy, 2017. Greece: Ethnic Turks In Rhodes And Kos. Copyright Federal Union of European Nationalities and Rhodes, Kos and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association. All Rights Reserved. Brussels, December 2017

Today, the annual financial supervisions of foundations are performed by the General Secretary of South Aegean Region, and the annual calculations are not declared to public.

Moreover, the Administration of Foundation in Rhodes gave the General Secretary of South Aegean Region complicatedly 331.137 Euros, as 151.137 Euro in 2002, and 180.000 Euro in 2003 according to the official data.

The Murat Reis Complex is a sample for the destruction of foundation estates: The complex, where there are mosques, tombs and graves, is faced with danger of destruction, and grave stones were broken and wiped off in a vandal way. The Murat Reis Mosque was closed for praying in 1972, and municipality conservatory was built in the yard of the complex instead of restoration.

Finally, the Greek governments closed the gate to the Complex in July 2017 in order to prevent the tourists to see that destruction.

We think that the fact behind the destruction of the cultural buildings belonging to the Turks in the islands is part of the assimilation policy in order to break the bonds with the past.

As the association we demand;

- Care on the part of Greek Government for protection, maintenance and restoration of cultural artefacts from Ottoman Turkic era in Rhodes, Kos and the Twelve Islands;
- Assurance of selection of the Board of Directors of Rhodes and Kos Foundation Assets by a free election held among Turkish population of Rhodes and Kos;
- Elimination of the environment of hate and oppression that emerges time and time again;
- Elimination of sentiments on hate against Turks in Greek school books; and
- Restoration of Murat Reis Kulliye complex in modern terms, recommissioning of the mosque in the complex for worship, and prevention of vandalistic destruction of gravestones in the complex.