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**THE
CONSTANTINOPOLITAN
SOCIETY**

GREEKS EXPATRIATED FROM ISTANBUL
BY TURKISH COERCION

2011 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Warsaw, 24 September to 5 October 2012

Wednesday, 3 October 2012

Working Session 14: Tolerance and Non-Discrimination II

Combating racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions

The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey

RECOMMENDATIONS TO OSCE / ODIHR

Due to systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, OSCE / ODIHR is called upon to urge the Turkish government to bring its laws and practices into compliance with international standards on freedom of religion or belief.

Specifically:

OSCE / ODIHR is called upon to urge Turkey -as an OSCE participating State- to:

- Give the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate the right to officially use the ecclesiastical title of “Ecumenical”, as it is a title that is historically established since the 6th century and globally recognized.
- Grant full legal personality to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, so that the latter may enjoy, inter alia, ownership rights and exercise property ownership / management.
- Lift the prerequisite that the election of the Ecumenical Patriarch depends on the pre-approval of the Prefecture of Istanbul.

- End Turkish citizenship requirements for the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church, and permit them to select and appoint their leadership and members in accordance with their internal guidelines and beliefs.
- Resolve the question of those non - Muslim Foundations considered fused / mazbut, which, along with their properties, should be returned to the Greek Orthodox community and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- Re-open without any delay the Halki Seminary with the same status it held before 1971 and permit students to enroll from both within and outside Turkey. The Ecumenical Patriarchate should have the right and the authority to call and employ priests from abroad without any residency constraints. Also, the closing of the Seminary makes it almost impossible for Turkish citizens to be trained in order to be able to assume the highest responsibilities in the Orthodox Church today, thus creating a serious problem for the future of the Patriarchate and of the Church itself.
- Give permission to the Ecumenical Patriarchate to have its own printing facilities for the publishing of religious editions (books, journals etc.).
- Remove restrictions on all clergy and members of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to wear religious garb in public areas, state institutions, and public and private universities.
- Abolish Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, which restricts the freedoms of thought and expression and negatively affects the freedom of religion or belief.
- Return the three churches of Panayia Kafatiani, Aya Yani and Aya Nikola in the district of Karakoy-Galata in Istanbul, as well as their 72 immovable properties, which have been illegally and forcibly occupied by the self – declared and nonexistent “Turkish Orthodox Patriarchate (TOP)”. The latter’s involvement in the Ergenekon case deserves further investigation, as the spokesperson of TOP Sevgi Erenerol, great granddaughter of Father Efthim (Papa-Eftim), the founder and leader of the TOP, is accused in connection with the Ergenekon case. It is also alleged that one of the three churches served as headquarters for the organisation.
- Implement the Turkish Constitution and the Lausanne Treaty consistent with international obligations, such as OSCE commitments on freedom of religion or belief.
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