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Working Group of Turkic Minorities in FUEN

**Two written statements on the Turkish minority in Greece to the UN Human Rights Council
by FUEN**

09/03/2017

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the Turkish minority in Greece
to the UN Human Rights
Council by FUEN**

The Federal Union of European Nationalities(FUEN) submitted two written statements on the problems of the Turkish Minority and Rhodes-Kos Turks in Greece to 34th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council which will be held from February 27th and March 24th, 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.



With the coordination with the Working Group of Turkish Minorities/Communities(TAG), in the two written statements prepared in co-operation with FUEN member organizations representing the Turkish minority in Western Thrace, namely the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), the Friendship, Equality and Peace(FEP) Party, the Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association (WTMUGA), and the member organization representing the Rhodes and Kos Turks, namely Rhodes, Kos, Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association (ROISDER) raised the current problems of the Turkish minority in Greece.

FUEN noted that political bias and hatred against the Turkish minority in Western Thrace have revealed created an environment of pressure and intimidation as a part of government policy in the region and added that the most important indicator of this strategy is juridical investigations against representatives of the Turkish minority for their speeches and actions. FUEN mentioned in detail juridical investigations against members of the minority and further noted that juridical investigations and judicial prosecution against the elected Muftis in Komotini and Xanthi are not only a violation of the freedom of expression and the freedom of religion and belief, but they are in fact a threat and intimidation against the Turkish minority of Western Thrace which strongly opposed the appointment of the muftis by state with no consideration of the autonomous structure in religion. FUEN asked Greek authorities to end intimidation strategy and to respect the freedom of expression of the members belonging to the Turkish minority in Western Thrace.

FUEN mentioned that assimilation is the main problem for the Turkish community in Rhodes and Kos and further noted that children who are taking education in state schools are able to speak Turkish at the basic level, because Turkish schools that provided bilingual education were closed down in 1972. FUEN noted that it observed that the closure of the schools that provided education in Turkish, which is the main tool of communication and a transition tool for education and religion is a part of the cultural assimilation policy applied by the relevant authorities in Greece.

For the full text of the FUEN's written statement on the Turkish minority of Western Thrace submitted to UN Human Rights Council, please visit the following link:

<https://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/6091143.48888397.html>

For full text of the FUEN's written statement on the Rhodes-Kos Turks submitted to the UN Human Rights Council, please visit the following link:

<https://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/3280911.14759445.htm>