



TOBB

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UNION OF CHAMBERS
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OF TURKEY

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Date :
No : 0411/
Subject : Attempted Coup

Dear President,

25.07.2016 13965

On Friday, July 15th, the democratically elected government of Turkey was attempted to be overthrown by a coup attempted by a fraction of the Turkish Armed Forces. The attempt was thwarted by the joint efforts of Turkish security forces staying loyal to the elected government and the people of Turkey. Crowds took to the streets and squares of major cities in defense of the government, especially after President Erdoğan's call for citizens to resist the attempt at all costs.

Turkey does have a history of military coups, however, this was the first time plotters met resistance by ordinary citizens. As an unfortunate result, the number of casualties including civilians increased exponentially into the night, to 246 mainly in Ankara and Istanbul.

The coup attempt was orchestrated by the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ) that infiltrated both the state apparatus as well as the Turkish Armed Forces starting from late 1980s. Their plot to suppress the regime and gain control included bombing Turkish Parliament by Turkish jets and army helicopters. Plotters did not hesitate to open fire on unarmed civilians or run over occupied vehicles.

Now the coup attempt has been thwarted, and on the advice of the National Security Council, the Cabinet has declared a State of Emergency. The motivation behind the declaration of the State of Emergency is to accelerate the judicial process and restore public order at once. We would like to inform you that our daily lives and all governmental functions turned into normal after this regrettable attempt throughout the country. The objective of State of Emergency is to shorten the normalization process and stabilize the Turkish economy immediately.

Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ) is also documented to have crept into other pivotal state institutions. As such, there are ongoing investigations into Turkey's education, judiciary and security institutions to expose members of the movement and potential co-conspirators.

The State of Emergency should be interpreted as the government's efforts to normalize life following Friday night's trauma. There is a strong emphasis on maintaining economic stability throughout the coming weeks and unwavering agreement on Turkey's status as an open market economy.

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One positive externality of the Friday night's event was its unifying effect across the social and political spectrums. Leaders of opposition parties immediately denounced the coup attempt on national broadcasts and called for their Members of the Parliament to rush to the Parliament. In turn, this has been publicly appreciated by the President and the government officials, leading to an easing of the previous political tensions.

If Friday's events have shown anything, it is the fact that Turkey's experiment with democracy has been successful in establishing an urge to defend the democratic principles and the ballot box.

We reiterate our firm belief in Turkey's democratic future and call on our friends to be supportive of the Turkish normalization process aiming to restore public order at once.

We would be pleased to continue sharing the developments in Turkey.

Yours Sincerely,

M. Rifat HİSARCIKLIOĞLU
President