

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europa Newsletter

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Member of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
Member of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)



Nr. 24 | October 2012 | Year 8

A delegation from Europe visits Western Thrace in Greece to investigate the problems of the Turkish minority



ABTTF President Halit Habipoğlu: As an NGO having been conducting political lobbying in the international arena for many years, we broke new ground, and brought a delegation to investigate the problems of the Turkish minority to Western Thrace

The Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTTF) organized from 16 to 20 October 2012 a fact-finding visit to Western Thrace, Greece to investigate the problems of the Turkish minority on-site, which was accompanied by MEP François Alfonsi, Co-Chair of the "Intergroup Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages" at the European Parliament, Hans Heinrich Hansen, President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities and Willy Fautré, Director of the Human Rights Without Frontiers Int'l. During the visit attended by


ABTTF President Halit Habipoğlu, ABTTF Director General K. Engin Soyyılmaz and Member of the Department of International Affairs of ABTTF, Seyhan Sarıca, and organized in partnership with the Political Party of Friendship, Equality, Peace (DEB), the delegation met with the representative organizations of the Turkish minority.


Visit to the Macedonia-Thrace Muslims Education and Culture Association in Thessaloniki


On 16 October 2012, FUEN President Hansen and HRWF Int'l Director Fautré visited the Macedonia-Thrace Muslims Education and Culture Association in Thessaloniki. During the visit, the Chairman of the Association, Osman İsmailoğlu stated in Thessaloniki, there are two mosques remained from the Ottoman Empire, though their request as association for re-opening one of the

mosques for Friday prays and on religious feast days was dismissed by the Greek authorities.


CONTENTS


A delegation from Europe visits Western Thrace in Greece to investigate the problems of the Turkish minority pages 1-2 


ABTTF at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe pages 2-3 


ABTTF congratulated EU Special Representative for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis for his new task page 3 


ABTTF at the 21st session of the UN Human Rights Council pages 4 

U.S. 2011 International Religious Freedom Report on Greece released pages 5-6 

An Iraqi migrant killed in Greece page 7-8 

"Golden Dawn" supporters with Greek flags in their hands drive by the Turkish villages in Xanthi page 9-10 

Some children belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace not enrolled in the primary school as they have not attended public kindergarten page 11 

Attack on headquarters of Friendship, Equality, Peace Party page 12 



Delegation meets with the representative organizations of the Turkish minority in Komotini

The delegation accompanied by the ABTTF representatives visited on 17 October 2012 the Office of the Elected Mufti of Komotini, the Komotini Turkish Youth Union, the Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association and the Headquarter of the Political Party of Friendship, Equality and Peace (DEB). The vice mayors of Komotini, Rıdvan Molla İsa ve Mehmet Devecioğlu conveyed to the delegation during the lunch the adversities brought by the electoral threshold of 3% which also applies to the independent candidates. In the evening, the delegation met with the representatives of the Turkish minority media at dinner.

On 18 October 2012, the delegation met with İsmet Kadı, Mayor of İasmos (Yassıköy) and President of the Consultative Committee of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, Cemil Kabza, Chairman of the Culture and



Education Foundation of Western Thrace Minority (CEFOM) and CEFOM Director General Pervin Hayrullah. On the same day, the delegation ate lunch with the Elected Mufti of Komotini, İbrahim Şerif, and met also with the Chairman of the Western Thrace Turkish Teachers Union, Sami Toraman and İbrahim Şerif, Mayor of Ariana (Kozlukibir) and Vice-President of the Consultative Committee of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace.

Turkish minority mothers living in the village of Echinós (Şahin) conveyed to the delegation the problem of bilingual pre-school education

On 19 October 2012, the delegation departed for Xanthi, and met there with Ahmet Mete, Elected Mufti of Xanthi,



Ahmet Kara, Chairman of the Xanthi Turkish Union and Mustafa Çukal, Mayor of Myki (Mustafçova) and Vice-President of the Consultative Committee of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace. Lastly, the delegation visited the Turkish minority village of Echinós (Şahin), met there with those 20 children together with their parents, who were not enrolled in the Echinós (Şahin) Turkish Minority Primary School on the grounds that they had not attended a public kindergarten, and got information on the problem of enrollment in the kindergarten.

“As an NGO having been conducting political lobbying in the international arena for many years, we broke new ground. During the four-day-fact-finding visit organized in partnership with the Political Party of DEB, the delegation investigated the problems of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece, and is going to share later on the report on the visit with all the concerning persons and authorities. In this way, attention will be drawn to the problems of the Turkish minority in Europe.” said Halit Habipoğlu, President of the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF).



ABTTF at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



The President of the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) Halit Habipoğlu and ABTTF Director General K. Engin Soyylmaz paid a working visit to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) from 3 to 4 October 2012 in Strasbourg.

Greece insists on not implementing the ECtHR's judgments

During the meeting with the members of the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights Boriss Cilevičs and Klaas de Vries, ABTTF President Habipoğlu stated the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has condemned Greece of violating the right to freedom of association of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, though she has been insisting on not implementing those three judgments of the Court.

Increase in hate-motivated attacks following the entry of Golden Dawn to the Greek Parliament

During the meeting with Prof. Dr. Pelin Gündeş Bakır, member of the Turkish Delegation to PACE, President Habipoğlu noted hate-motivated attacks

against the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace have increased, adding the members of the ultra-nationalist political party Golden Dawn drove shouting nationalist slogans by the Turkish minority villages in Xanthi and Komotini, which led to anxiety and fear among Western Thrace Turks.

During the meeting with Françoise Kempf, Adviser to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, President Habipoğlu said under the former article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Code, 60 thousand persons have been deprived of their Greek citizenship. Habipoğlu also referred to the attacks on the Komotini Turkish Youth Union and on the Turkish teacher Mülazım Cemali by the supporters of the Golden Dawn.

Children not enrolled in the Minority primary school as they have not attended public kindergarten and school

principal referred to the disciplinary board

During the meeting with Zeynep Gökşen Acar, Lawyer at the Secretariat of the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), President Habipoğlu described the problems faced by the Turkish Minority in the field of education in mother language, the problem of bilingual Minority kindergartens, the Law of 3518/2006 and its impact on the Turkish Minority, saying that 20 children belonging to the Turkish Minority were not enrolled in the Turkish Minority Primary School in Echinós (Şahin) on the ground that they did not attend the public kindergarten, and the school principal was referred to the disciplinary board by the state inspectorship of the Ministry of Education and got an administrative warning as he had admitted all those children to the first grade of the school.

ABTTF congratulated EU Special Representative for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis for his new task

ABTTF asked Stavros Lambrinidis to keep an eye on human rights violations in the EU area.

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) congratulated Stavros Lambrinidis who was started his duty as EU Special Representative for Human Rights on 1 September, 2012. ABTTF asked Lambrinidis to promote human rights in home affairs of the EU and in relations with third countries.

ABTTF stated that Stavros Lambrinidis, as Special Representative, is expected to monitor the implementation of human rights in third countries and be a reliable voice for the people who suffer human rights violations in these countries. ABTTF expressed its regret



that his mandate is limited to human rights issues relating to the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. ABTTF asked EU Special Representative to get pro-

actively involved in protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable groups, including the rights of persons belonging to traditional national minorities in Europe.

ABTTF expressed its hope that a close and constructive cooperation between EU Special Representative and the EP Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages will be established in future and asked Special Representative to work together with governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to give human rights more prominence both within the EU and international arena.

* Photo: <http://eeas.europa.eu/>

ABTTF at the 21st session of the UN Human Rights Council

ABTTF stated that there is a marked increase in hate-motivated attacks in the period after the election of Golden Dawn to the Greek Parliament

On 13-14 September 2012, Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) participated in the 21st regular session of the UN Human Rights Council. Held in UN Geneva House between 10 and 28 September 2012, ABTTF International Affairs Director Melek Kırmacı and ABTTF International Affairs and Lobby Group Member Funda Reşit attended to the 21st regular session.

ABTTF: Golden Dawn attacks against the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace created fear among the minority.

In the meeting at which agenda Item 3, promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development has been discussed,



ABTTF stated that there is a marked increase in hate-motivated attacks against the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in the period after the election of Golden Dawn to the Greek Parliament. In the meeting ABTTF International Affairs Director Melek Kırmacı reported the attacks by Golden Dawn supporters against Turkish Komotini Youth Union in August 2012.

ABTTF: Deep economic crisis fueled hostile attitude against immigrants and asylum seekers.

Prior to the meeting ABTTF has submitted a written statement to the UN Human Rights Council and noted that deep economic crisis in Greece deepened xenophobic violence against immigrants and asylum seekers.

ABTTF stated that far-right groups such as Golden Dawn has gained popularity and support among Greeks and noted that the political discourse has been toughened in the period after the election of Golden Dawn to the Parliament. ABTTF added that xenophobic discourse turned into an anti-Greek sentiment and triggered xenophobia and racially-motivated hate crimes in the country. ABTTF reported

that hate-motivated attacks by Golden Dawn supporters and urged Greek authorities to take all necessary measure in order to combat violent hate crimes in the country.

The full text of the written statement submitted by ABTTF to the 20th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council is available at:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G12/164/65/PDF/G1216465.pdf?OpenElement>



U.S. 2011 International Religious Freedom Report on Greece released



ABTTF President Halit Habipoğlu: With the parallel report, we are aiming to make the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace have a say in issues which directly concern itself

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor of the U.S. Department of State released the 2011 International Religious Freedom Report on Greece. In the report, which also addresses to the problems “the Muslim minority in Thrace (Turkish Minority of Western Thrace)” faces in the area of religious freedom, it is stated the Greek Orthodox Church exercises significant social, political, and economic influence.

The report points out that the Greek government does not keep statistics

on religious groups and it is stated the “Muslim minority” recognized officially by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne consists of an estimated 140,000 to 150,000 individuals /approximately 1.3 percent of the Greek population) residing in Thrace.

It is noted in the report the rights of the “Muslim minority in Thrace” was guaranteed by the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and the Greek government maintains that Muslims living outside Thrace are not covered by the Treaty of Lausanne and therefore do not enjoy the rights provided by the treaty to Muslims residing in Thrace.

It is stated in the report differences remained between the some Muslim Turkish minority and the Greek government regarding the process of

selecting muftis and imams and the government continued to maintain it has the right to appoint muftis since they perform judicial Sharia function but on the other hand, some members of the Muslim minority objected to the government's appointment of muftis.

It is mentioned although the principal was written off by the Greek government, it continued to claim that waqfs (charitable organizations) in Thrace owed interest on their tax debt totalling approximately one million euros (\$1.3 million). Members of the Muslim minority protested the government's position and lobbied for the interest to be written off as well.

The report notes attacks against non-Orthodox groups in the country, stating that in March unknown

perpetrators damaged the exterior of the Uysallı mosque in Rodopi prefecture, in February unknown perpetrators damaged approximately 10 gravestones at the Muslim cemetery in the city of Komotini and in July unknown perpetrators nailed a pig's head on the wooden door of the historic Halil Bey mosque in Kavala.

[ABTTF prepared a parallel report on the U.S. 2011 International Religious Freedom Report on Greece](#)

The Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) prepared a parallel report on the International Religious Freedom Report for 2011 on Greece which was released by the U.S. Department of State on July 30, 2012, submitted it to the competent U.S. authorities.

ABTTF states in its parallel report that the thesis of the Greek Government that the Muslims living outside Thrace are not covered by the Treaty of Lausanne cannot be put forth an excuse that the Turkish community living in the islands of Rhodes and Kos is deprived of its minority rights.

ABTTF reminds that the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace has been granted by the 1923 Lausanne Peace Treaty the right to establish and manage its own educational institutions where the language of education is in its mother tongue which is Turkish, noting that the 0.5 % quota applied to the Turkish minority as a measure of positive discrimination has had a limited influence due to the poor level of quality in education in minority schools and differences in



educational level of many Turkish minority students attending the Greek universities.

ABTTF notes that the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace has the right to elect its religious leaders (Muftis) under the 1913 Athens Treaty, adding that abolition of the recognition of Shari'a unilaterally by the Greek Government would be a breach of its obligations derived from international treaties to which Greece is a party.

[ABTTF: Hate-motivated attacks have increased considerably following the entrance of Golden Dawn to the Greek Parliament](#)

ABTTF states also in its parallel report that in the period following the entrance of the far right political party Golden Dawn (Chrysi Avgi) to the Greek Parliament as a result of the general elections on 17 June 2012, xenophobic violence and hate-motivated attacks have increased in the country, adding that the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace is being also affected by this hostile

environment although all its members are Greek citizens. ABTTF notes that on 6 August 2012, the Komotini Turkish Youth Union was attacked by the supporters of the Golden Dawn. On 12 August 2012, members of the Xanthi provincial branch of the Golden Dawn, who carried Greek flags in their hands, drove by the Turkish villages in Xanthi by motorbikes and cars and nurtured a climate of fear among the minority living in the Turkish villages of Yenice, Beyköy and Okçular. Lastly, on 23 August 2012, the headquarters of the political party of Friendship, Equality and Peace (DEP), which was established by the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, was attacked in the late hours of evening and illuminated sign of the party was broken with rocks.

"With this parallel report, ABTTF is aiming to make the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace have a say in issues which directly concern itself, and convey its view to the competent authorities." said Halit Habipoğlu, President of the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF).

An Iraqi migrant killed in Greece



On 12 August 2012, an Iraqi migrant has been attacked in the capital city Athens. The migrant has been attacked on Anaxagora Street in the early hours of the morning, he was taken to a hospital but lost his life at the hospital. According to police investigation, five suspects who are believed to be involved in the killing of Iraqi migrant attacked a Romanian and a Moroccan earlier, but managed to flee.

[Golden Dawn members set fire a prayer room in Piraeus, beat up a Pakistani migrant](#)

Attacks on immigrants have been on the increase in Greece. On August 10, a group which is believed to be members of Golden Dawn (Chrysi Avgi), attacked Muslims who were praying at the holy month of Ramadan in Piraeus on Friday night. The assailants threw a gas bomb to the prayer room, small mosque

which is used by Pakistani migrants at the Etolikou Street, while the Muslims were praying. The assailants beat up a Pakistani migrant when he tried to get out from the stairs, the migrant got injured.

[Golden Dawn party members smash stalls run by immigrants in Rafina, near Athens](#)

The members of the political party Golden Dawn inspected the permits and documents of those who opened stall in the market set up on the occasion of religious feast in Rafina, near to the Greek capital Athens, and smashed the stalls run by immigrants as they did not have the required permits. The group consisting of 30 persons, among whom two deputies of the Golden Dawn were also present, destroyed the marketplace.

Following the assault carried out by the Golden Dawn in Rafina, the

Greek Ministry of Public Order stated the police launched an investigation and it will be applied through public prosecutorship to the Parliament to revoke the political immunity of those deputies who took part in the action. In the statement released on the website of the Golden Dawn, it is said, "The members of the Golden Dawn did what the non-existing Greek State should have done a long time ago. Similar actions will continue across the country."

[Golden Dawn supporters clash with police](#)

The police intervened in the protest led by Golden Dawn MP Efstathios Boukouras and Golden Dawn supporters who patrol the city of Corinth with the claim of "expelling the immigrants and protecting the Greek identity of the city". In a clash with supporters of Golden Dawn,



Approximately a hundred of party members were taken into custody.

Vatan reported that Golden Dawn members organized a protest against the transfer of illegal migrants to the army camp in Corinth. The police intervened in the protest of Golden Dawn supporters armed with sticks and wrapped Greek flags and in a clash between the police and the protesting groups some Golden Dawn members were injured.

Parliament, xenophobia and intolerance in the country has become more amid with hate speech and hate-motivated attacks on migrants. In cities from where Golden Dawn got high votes, the protests of Golden Dawn members with the claim of expelling the migrants and protecting the Greek identity of the cities threatens the general security in the country. This further raises our concern that such clashes between the police and

Golden Dawn supporters could spread into other cities in Greece. In this precarious circumstances, the Greek Government should take necessary precautions; otherwise it is likely to live a chaotic environment over a larger area in the country where the economic crisis has had a great impact on people's lives."

* Photos: www.gazetevatan.com;
www.ekathimerini.com;
www.akşam.com.tr; www.multeci.tv

ABTTF President Halit Habipoğlu: Unless immediate measures are taken, we will witness increasing acts of violence in different parts of the country

President of Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF), Halit Habipoğlu said, "Xenophobia against migrant people has reached an alarming point in Greece. In period following the election of Golden Dawn to the Greek



“Golden Dawn” supporters with Greek flags in their hands drive by the Turkish villages in Xanthi

Xenophobia and intolerance in Greece has been rising following the entry of the Golden Dawn in the Greek Parliament. Attacks and actions, in which members or supporters of the Golden Dawn were involved, spread to Western Thrace. On 6 August, a group of nearly 150 members of the extreme nationalist political party Golden Dawn had marched towards the Komotini Turkish Youth Union and chanted slogans against Turkey and the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, and thrown bottles to the garden of the association.

On 12 August 2012, a group of members of the Xanthi provincial organization of the extreme nationalist political party Golden Dawn (Chrysi Avgi), who carried Greek flags in their hands, drove by the Turkish villages in Xanthi by motorbikes and cars and organized so a kind of demonstration. According to the news of daily Birlık, the group drove in the evening of Sunday by the Turkish villages of Yenice, Beyköy and Okçular.

Golden Dawn marches in Komotini

The Golden Dawn members with pick-ups and motorcycles held a parade on



Sunday evening, 9 September through the streets of Komotini. According to the daily Birlık, the group consisting of 50 persons organized its first event on the occasion of the establishment of the Golden Dawn's Rhodopi province branch. The group carrying Greek flags in hands drove close by the Turkish General Consulate in Komotini. The police blocked the roads to the General Consulate in order to prevent a potential attack.

in Greece threats not only the migrants but also the ones with a different ethnic origin, language and religion who are all Greek citizens. The most obvious example of this situation is happening in Western Thrace. The Golden Dawn political party is the most important trigger of this threatened environment which is overwhelming the country. The Greek Government should take urgent action.” said Halit Habipoğlu, President of the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF).

“The rising xenophobia and intolerance





Western Thrace Turk Mülazım Cemali attacked by far-rightists

Mülazım Cemali, a teacher belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace,

was attacked by far-rightists on Tuesday evening, September 18 in Xanthi city centre as he was hanging a placard of an event. Cemali, who was a deputy candidate for the extreme-left Antarsia Party in Xanthi, is a member of a group



called “Movement Against Racism and Fascist Threat”. The assailants hit Cemali and three other members of the activist group. According to the daily Trakya'nın Sesi, the violent attack was staged by the members of the ultra-nationalist political party Golden Dawn (Chrysi Avgi). After the attack had been notified to the police, one of the perpetrators was arrested.

ABTTF President Halit Habipoğlu: The violent attack against Mülazım Cemali clearly demonstrates the increasing hate-motivated attacks in Western Thrace, Greece

“The violent attack by far-rightists against Mülazım Cemali who is a member of a group against racism and fascism clearly demonstrates the increasing hate-motivated attacks against the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Greece. As ABTTF, we strongly condemn this hideous attack, and call on the competent authorities to take more immediately the necessary measures in order that such violent attacks do not happen again and spread to wider society.” said Halit Habipoğlu, President of the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF).

* Photos: www.birlikgazetesi.info;
<http://english.sabah.com.tr>

Some children belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace not enrolled in the primary school as they have not attended public kindergarten

ABTTF President Halit Habipoğlu: The Turkish Minority of Western Thrace has the right to have education in its mother language, and the Greek Government should find as soon as possible a solution for this problem having emerged today as a matter of enrolment

In Greece, where the new school year has begun, a problem is being experienced now regarding the law enacted in 2006. According to this law, the children, who have completed their 5th age, are obliged to attend kindergarten. In the statement made by the political party Friendship, Equality and Peace (DEB), it is said some children belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace in Komotini and Xanthi were not enrolled in the first class of primary school. DEB noted the statement “as there are no bilingual (Greek and Turkish) minority kindergartens, they have not sent their children to the state kindergarten” of the children parents was not accepted by the competent Greek authorities.

The law of 3518/2006 provides that all children, who were born 1 January 2003 and later and have completed their 5th age, are obliged to attend kindergarten. The demand of the opening of bilingual kindergartens of the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, which has been granted the right to establish and manage its own schools by the 1923 Lausanne Peace Treaty, has been persistently ignored by the Greek Government. Therefore, there is today this problem regarding the enrolment of



the children in the first class of primary school, who has not attended public kindergarten where the education language is only in Greek.

The principal of the Turkish Minority Primary School in Echinós (Şahin) dismissed from duty

The parents stated that they did not want to send their children to public kindergartens where the the education language was only in Greek. Because he had admitted all those children to classes, the school principal Hasan Kurak had got an administrative warning. Consequently, the school principal Hasan Kurak was dismissed from duty. According to the daily *Gündem*, Salih Hoçka was appointed as the new school principal, and replaced Hasan Kurak.

“It is not acceptable that the principal of the Turkish Minority Primary School in Echinós (Şahin) village, Hasan Kurak was dismissed from duty without any explanatory statement. We do not think that Hasan Kurak has made a mistake because he as a pedagogue admitted those children to e classes by taking solely the best interest of them into consideration and following to the decision of the school board.” said Halit Habipoğlu, President of the Federation



of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF). The president added, “The Turkish Minority of Western Thrace has always underlined that it has the right to establish bilingual (Greek and Turkish) minority kindergartens according to the 1923 Lausanne Peace Treaty and the bilateral treaties signed between Greece and Turkey in the field of education. However, the Greek authorities have



persistently ignored this demand of the Turkish minority. It is of the Greek Government's responsibility to solve this problem having emerged today as a matter of enrolment. The Greek Government should guarantee the right of the children belonging to the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace to have education in their native language, and positively respond to the Turkish minority's demand of the opening of bilingual minority kindergartens.”

* Photos: www.birlikgazetesi.info; www.gundemgazetesi.com



Attack on headquarters of Friendship, Equality, Peace Party

On 23 August 2012, headquarters of Party of Friendship, Equality, Peace (Turkish: Dostluk, Eşitlik, Barış Partisi) (Greek: Κόμμα Ισότητας, Ειρήνης και Φιλίας) was attacked by an unidentified person or a group. According to Birlik newspaper, the headquarters in Komotini was attacked in the evening hours after the office was closed, and the assailants broke party's sign with stones.



Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) President Halit Habipoğlu said, "As Board of Directors, we strongly condemn the attack on party's headquarters. In such period of increasing attacks against the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace, we ask Greek authorities to take comprehensive measures in order to prevent possible violent attacks".



* Photos:

www.birlikgazetesi.info

ABTTF Newsletter

The ABTTF-Newsletter in four languages, namely in Turkish, English, Greek and German, is celebrating its eighth year.

The ABTTF newsletter, in which the matters of grave concern to the Turkish minority of Western Thrace, recent developments and current events in Western Thrace and Greece, in particular pertaining to the minority issues and policies, international activities and lobbying of ABTTF aimed at obtaining solutions for the for the problems of the Turkish minority through democracy and peace and information on the activities of the associations of the Turkish minority throughout Europe and the world are dealt with, is being followed with great interest not only by Western Thrace Turks, but also by large parts of the public.

To have more information on subscription to the ABTTF Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

ABTTF

Avrupa Batı Trakya Türk Federasyonu

Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe
Föderation der West-Thrakien Türken in Europa
Ευρωπαϊκή Ομοσπονδία Τούρκων Δυτικής Θράκης
Fédération des Turcs de Thrace Occidentale en Europe

ABTTF Head Office
Wemerstr. 2, D-8454 Witten Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2302 91 32 91 - Fax: +49 (0) 2302 91 32 93

ABTTF Brussels Office
Square de Meeüs 38/40 B-1000 Brussels Belgium
Tel.: +32 (0) 2 401 61 98 - Fax: +32 (0) 2 401 68 68

Executive Editor: K. Engin Soyylmaz Editor: Mustafa Veli