**July 22, 2025**

**CALL TO GREECE IN THE LIGHT OF THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE**

**Summary**

Turks living in Greece primarily inhabit Western Thrace, Rhodes, and Kos.

Greece has violated the religious, educational, social, and economic rights of Turks living in Western Thrace, Rhodes, and Kos conferred upon them by the Treaty of Lausanne and other international agreements, and has been trying to oppress them.

We call on Greece to recognize the rights of Turksliving in Greece to protect and develop their cultural identity.

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Kaymakçı

President of The Rhodes, Kos, and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association.

Turks live primarily in Western Thrace, as well as two regions inthe islands of Rhodes and Kos.

Greece has violated the religious, educational, social, and economic rights of Western Thrace Turks conferred by theTreaty of Lausanne and has been trying to oppress them.

Greece's basic policy to ward Turks living in Western Thrace has been to force them to migrate. In the meantime, the issuance of free transit visas by Turkey has resulted in the evacuation of many villages in Western Thrace.

Another policy implemented by Greece to ward the Turks of Western Thrace has been to "make them forget their Turkishness."

**In this context, the cultural problems faced by theTurks living in the Greek islands of Rhodes and Kos are more severe than those of theTurks of Western Thrace.**

Having taken over the islands in 1947, Greece refuses to recognize the cultural identity of theTurks living in Rhodes and Kos on the pretext that the Dodecanese were under Italian administration when theTreaty of Lausanne was signed in 1923.

***Nonetheless, this thesisis in violation of Article 45 of the Treaty of Lausanne, which stipulates that the rights conferred by the provisions of this Section and in Articles 37-44 on thenon-Muslim minorities of Turkey will be similarly conferredby Greece on the Muslim minority in her territory.***

**Moreover, it contradicts other international treaties signed by Greece, such as Protocol No. 3 tothe 1913 Treaty of Athens, the GreekTreaty of Sèvres of August 10, 1920, the Population Exchange Convention of January 30, 1923, the 1926 AthensTreaty, the 1930 and 1933 Ankara Treaty, and the 1947 Treaty of Paris.**

**Considering the fact that the set reaties apply to "all the territories of Greece," they remain in force today and are legallybinding on the Dodecanese.**

**Ultimately, the decision taken by the International Court of Justice regarding Article 15 of the 1978 Vienna Convention on the Succession of States in respect of treaties is also along these lines. The decision once againstipulates that the concept of “status of the country’sterritory” should be interpreted in a manner that includes not only the territory at the time of the agreement but also the territory acquired by the countrylater on.**

As for Rhodes and KosTurks in the presentday,

• Their Turkish identity is not recognized, and they are not allowed to get organized based on their cultural identity.

• Turkish children do not have the right to learnTurkish, at least at the primary level, based on bilingualism.

• TherearealsoobstaclestoIslamiceducation.

• Cultural monuments inherited from the OttomanTurks are left to theravages of time and ruthlessly destroyed.

• Members of the Foundation Properties Management are selected under the control of Greece, and an atmosphere of hatred and oppression emerge severynow and then.

Greeceis obligated by the Council of Europe, the EuropeanUnion, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations, and the Greek Constitution to protect and promote the cultural rights of allethnic groups living in Greece, not only those of Greekdescent.

We call on Greecetorecognizetheright of Turksliving in Greece and protect and promote their cultural rights

These right sare inherent to all humanbeings.