



FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Letter by Mr. Taha ÖZHAN, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey to the International Community on "15 July Coup Attempt" and Gülenist Terror Organization"

Distinguished International Community,

In the evening of July 15, Turkey faced a coup attempt and a terrorist attack perpetrated by the military-wing of an illegal organization known in the country as the 'Parallel State Organization' and/or the 'Gülenist Terrorist Organization'. The attempt was definitely outside of the chain of command.

The attempt targeted the country as a whole, the people of Turkey, political parties, the elected President of Turkey, the Government of Turkey, state institutions and public administrators, the Turkish Armed Forces in particular, and most importantly the rule of law and democracy. Rather than a military coup attempt, in the public perception, it is received as the largest and the most organized terrorist attack that the country has ever seen.

The country witnessed the bloodiest and the most violent attack that was carried out by this terrorist organization led by Fethullah Gülen, who has lived in Pennsylvania, USA since 1998. The attack was averted in less than 24 hours by collective efforts of the people of Turkey and the Security (Police) Forces. Fighter jets, helicopters, tanks and snipers randomly targeted common people who had taken to the streets against the vicious assault against their freedom and democracy. The perpetrators targeted the hotel where President Erdoğan and his family were on vacation; bombed several telecommunication sites and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey while the people's representatives of all parties were inside at work to denounce the attempt. They attacked the major institutions of the military, police and intelligence. Many civilians, soldiers and police were taken hostage and some of them were viciously murdered by the perpetrators. The attackers occupied the state-run Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) and the private CNN Türk, assaulted media members, and closed critical highways, several main arteries and the two bridges over the Bosphorus. They posed a threat to NATO bases, and put the security of Turkey and NATO at risk. About 300 people, mostly civilians, were killed and nearly 1,500 were wounded by the perpetrators.

The Gülenist Terrorist Organization and its members are institutionalized worldwide under the name of the 'Service Movement'. The Gülenist Terrorist Organization, similar to the DEASH, exercises messianic faith in a direction to capture or enslave the whole world. It has a network active in more than 100 countries. Founded by an ex-cleric Fethullah Gülen, the organization has been functioning since 1964. It is known by its activities under the guise of 'moderate Islam', and 'interfaith dialogue'. It is particularly involved in educational activities. The organization has opened almost 2,000 private schools of all levels, 700 of which are in Turkey. These schools have been the backbone of their recruitment although other qualified recruits were allowed in after a strict observation, adaptation, and dedication period. It has been illegally nested within state institutions by the human capital raised in their own schools and other educational institutions, where the network members were placed in via nepotist schemes. Thus, it managed to penetrate into state institutions through their disciples who were subject to religious and ideological teaching from the very early years of their education in cell-

like formations. The disciples were raised as soldiers, police, prosecutors, judges, intelligence officers and teachers by illegally obtaining questions, answers-provided, before taking the specific 'entrance exams' to qualify for degree-specific University/College/Academy programs or before taking the 'specific selection/placement exams' for employment in state and public institutions. In this way, the Gulenists have been eagerly organized within politics, judiciary, education, bureaucracy, media, and business whichever are relevant in the countries where they are active, without ever forgetting their loyalty to their roots and the spiritual leader Fetullah Gülen, and their duty to pay back the organization and their ideology on a continual basis or on occasions or someday in the future when they are called to do so. For the disciples of the group, Fethullah Gülen is and has been the only ultimate authority and legitimacy to obey in their lives. They also have gained substantial lobbying power via webs of connections, donations and charity organizations. All the genuinely recognized adherents and associates of the network whether individual or corporate chip in a part of their revenue to the expenses of the network. The organization, managing to boost its human capital and consolidate its institutional structure, has reached a 25 billion dollar annual turnover. Moreover, it has carried out joint activities with many legal and illegal intelligence agencies, terrorist organizations, and has been involved in illegal tapping and tracing. All these were to pressure, threaten and blackmail compliant and noncompliant people and adherents, communities and institutions to donate resources in cash and/or service in order to reach the ultimate goal of the Network. Thereby, they have been free to engage in soft and hard ways and means, manipulations, and attacks to gain voluntary and involuntary cooperation from whomever they deal with, to serve their interests and vision.

Known for many assassinations, bloodsheds, attacks and mysterious killings, particularly the Hrant Dink assassination and the Uludere attack during which 34 people were killed by the bombs of fighter jets; the organization has escalated social tension in the recent history of Turkey. The very same organization has also committed many attacks to intimidate its political and bureaucratic rivals, some by outright blackmails. The very same organization illegally eavesdropping thousands of politicians, including the President and the Prime Minister of Turkey, state administrators, journalists, academics and businessmen, has wiretapped four million people in total. It has pressured, threatened and blackmailed many of them to have access to political arena and other arenas via secret video recordings as well, also not shying away from infringing upon their privacy. It has also suppressed the soldiers, police, bureaucrats, politicians, and journalists who are seen as rivals by the organization. Businessmen who have refused to help the Gulenist Terrorist Organization were put in jail by the disciples of the organization nested in police and judicial bureaucracy by fabricating evidence and accusations against them via schemes.

In its first overt soft action, the organization directly targeted the governing AK Party Leader Erdoğan on February 7, 2012 in an attempt to arrest the Chief of the National Intelligence (MIT) by the collaboration of the police, prosecutors and judges who were members of the organization. In its nature, this was also a vendetta by the Network for Erdoğan's not appointing a member of the group, the head of the security (police) intelligence, to the post as the Chief of MIT. On December 17-25, 2013, the organization, in another soft coup attempt via the judiciary, was involved in thousands of illegal tapping and tracing activities directly targeting the then PM Mr. Erdoğan and AK Party government; by doing so, they were trying to design the domestic politics to take down the Government by both schemed legality and in the eyes of the people. However, the people of Turkey, in return, have increased their support to the governing party and its members in the local and general elections, and prevented the organization to reach its goal to overthrow the Government.

To assume the power, the The Gulenist Terrorist Organization this time carried out its biggest illegal and vicious attack against Turkey on July 15, 2016 via its disciples nested in the military. However, the

people of Turkey have taken to the streets at the cost of their lives, shielded against fighter jets, tanks and all kinds of heavy weapons, and victoriously protected their homeland, freedom and democracy. Together with the people, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Government of Turkey, all opposition parties, the Police and the majority of the Military have sternly resisted against the gravest and most organized terrorist attack in the history of Modern Turkey. Turkey thwarted the Gulenist terrorist attack also being well aware of the fact that her own stability and security is also an extension of the stability and security of all NATO members.

After the coup attempt was prevented, a vigorous legal course was initiated within the rule of law across the country against the members of the Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Network and those who had share in the terrorist coup attacks. In order to prevent a probable second terrorist coup attempt, and to ensure public safety, to protect democracy and maintain stability; the Constitutional status of "state of emergency" was declared, which is planned to last for 30 or 45 days.

Against all terrorist attacks in Turkey, starting with the events of July 15 and onwards, we are grateful to all of our allies and friendly countries for expressing their rejection of the coup attempt and condemnation of the terrorist attacks, and taking side with the people of Turkey, their State, their Law and Democracy. The attacks by the apparently-legal but illegal (Fetullah) Gulenist Terrorist Organization demonstrated once more that the whole humanity, legitimate politics, law and democracy itself are the targets of terrorism. The entire humanity, which has been the target of terrorism for decades, must now take up a global fight as a whole against all kinds of terrorism at the highest level of cooperation, must oppose terrorism regardless of its perpetrators and origin, and unify in power and coordination against it. Turkey will continue to fight against terrorism and all kinds of terrorist groups resolutely, which includes along with the Gulenist Terrorist Network targeting Turkey directly, the DEASH and PKK in the forefront. As we reiterate our belief that our allies and other friendly countries will not leave us alone in this fight, we hope that they all will continue to cooperate and join in capabilities at the highest levels.

Respectfully.