

## ***THE STRATEGY***

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle has developed a multifaceted, global strategy to address the religious freedom deficit in Turkey. It includes political, diplomatic, and legal components which are integrated by the National Council, the governing body of the order. Manatos & Manatos is coordinating the diplomatic and political components of the religious freedom strategy.

### ***Washington Congressional Briefing Helsinki Commission (March 2005)***

Archbishop Demetrios of America, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Holocaust survivor Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, former congressman Bob Edgar, President of the National Council of Churches and Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew offered testimony to the Helsinki Commission regarding the lack of religious freedom strategy.

### ***JUDICIAL REMEDY TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DEFICIT***

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle established a Legal Committee in June 2005. Chaired by Legal Counselor Christopher Stratakis, the committee is comprised of leading attorneys and scholars. The work of the Committee has been facilitated by a Yale University Law School Document which details the violations of religious freedom in Turkey. In addition, the order sought the guidance of the Cornell Law School and its well-known human rights professor Muna B. Ndulo to develop a roadmap for legal redress of the religious freedom violations that threaten the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Cornell report was released in December 2005.

## ***STATE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS***

The Archon Leadership meets on a regular basis with State Department officials including Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza to:

1. Review the ongoing situation in Turkey regarding religious persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
2. Seek the guidance of our government in helping Turkey address their repressive policies that infringe on the religious freedom of the Phanar.
3. Request assistance in arranging meetings with key officials throughout the world's diplomatic venues to discuss the crisis in religious freedom in Turkey and its grave implications regarding the survival of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

### ***ANKARA***

Although the Archons did not travel to Ankara, Turkey in 2006, the Leadership did meet with the Turkish Ambassador

### ***EUROPEAN UNION***

In 2005, the Archon Leadership initiated discussions with key members of the European Union regarding Turkey's accession. The Order strongly supports Turkey joining the EU, so long as it adopts the shared values of religious freedom and human rights enjoyed by EU member states. With assistance of Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, the official representative of the Orthodox Church to the EU and European Parliament Vice President Andonios Trakatellis meetings with officials and staff of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament took place to promote Turkey's accession. These meetings took place in May 2005 in Brussels, Belgium and Strasbourg, France and again in June 2005 in Brussels when Commander Limberakis met with Commissioner Olli Rehn, in charge of Turkey's accession into the EU.

Over 800 Briefing Books containing essential documents and evidence regarding the religious freedom deficit in Turkey have been distributed to the Members of the European Parliament and key Commissioners and staff of the EU.



Order of  
Saint Andrew  
the Apostle

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

***ACTION  
NEEDED***

**To Protect  
The Ecumenical  
Patriarchate  
Presently  
Facing Extinction**

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS

## JEOPARDIZING THE NEARLY 2,000-YEAR-OLD CENTER FOR 250,000,000 ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

- The Turkish government prevents the Orthodox Christian Church from selecting any canonically eligible bishop throughout the world from becoming the Ecumenical Patriarch by requiring Turkish citizenship and other restrictions.
- Since 2002, the Turkish government has confiscated 75% of the 1,747 Ecumenical Patriarchate's properties, including an orphanage the Church has held since 1902. Turkey suddenly put a 42% tax, retroactive to 1999, on the Christian Church's Balukli Hospital, which treats 30-40,000 patients a year, of which 99% are Muslim and Turkish citizens.
- The Turkish government refuses to recognize the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a bona fide legal entity, a critical issue since without a legal personality, it cannot own property and properly function as a religious institution.
- In December 2004, the government of Turkey reversed its commitment to President George Bush to reopen the Theological School at Halki. By doing so, **they kept the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey's ominous "catch-22"– requiring that the Ecumenical Patriarch be a Turkish citizen while oppressing Orthodox Christians to near extinction and keeping any from qualifying. This assures the governmentally forced end of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.** Not reopening the theological school guarantees that none of the remaining 2,000 Turkish citizens who are Orthodox (reduced from hundreds of thousands by official discrimination) can become clergy and more importantly, Ecumenical Patriarch.

