

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015

HR 1042

4  
5 By: Representative D. Ferguson

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PRESERVE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS,  
9 FREE MEDIA, AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN TURKEY.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PRESERVE  
14 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, FREE MEDIA, AND  
15 DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN TURKEY.

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18 WHEREAS, Turkey is our longstanding ally, a key North Atlantic Treaty  
19 Organization member, and a strategic partner in the Middle East; and

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21 WHEREAS, a strong democracy requires both tolerance and transparency,  
22 and recent decisions by the Turkish government to intimidate and smother  
23 opposition voices are threats to the democratic principles that Turkey has  
24 previously upheld; and

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26 WHEREAS, under the leadership of President Erdogan, the Turkish  
27 government has become increasingly authoritarian as it detains journalists,  
28 suppresses political dissidents, and completely disregards the rule of law  
29 and fundamental democratic precepts in Turkey; and

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31 WHEREAS, Turkey has become one of the top countries for detained  
32 journalists and restricted access to social media; and

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34 WHEREAS, the recent arrests of members of the Turkish media are  
35 alarming, and detained members of Turkish media have ties to a known critic  
36 of President Erdogan's Administration, and



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WHEREAS, recent arrests have had a chilling effect on freedom, democracy, and economic prosperity for all of Turkey; and

WHEREAS, a free media must be supported and protected to foster an environment open to constructive political discussion and to ensure freedom of expression,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly encourages the Turkish government to abandon its course of intimidation, embrace a free media, and tolerate dissenting voices.