

ECUMENICAL FEDERATION OF CONSTANTINOPOLITANS

RESOLUTION ON THE ATTACKS AGAINST THE GREEK CEMETRY IN THE ISLAND GOKCEADA-IMBROS

30 October 2010

The Administration Board of the Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans (Ec.Fe.Con) being informed on the damages caused by vandals on 29 October 2010 in a large number of graves (76) in the Greek Orthodox cemetery of Panagia in the island of Gokceada-Imbros expresses its deep concern and condemnation of this act.

Attacks against cemeteries constitute grave acts of violence against human rights as are experienced in cases of grave anti-minority acts. The motivation of vandals is the humiliation of the Community which the dead belong.

Turkish Government must act immediately by taking the necessary legal steps to find those responsible of this act, brought them to justice and their exemplary punishment.

We are obliged to remind that when similar acts of vandalism took place on 2 September 2009 against the Greek cemetery of Balikli in Istanbul the issue was not taken seriously to a sufficient degree by the European Commission and the signatory states of the Lausanne Treaty, especially of Turkey and Greece, undertaking the international obligation to protect the minority rights of the Greek Community of Turkey.

Ec.Fe.Con as the federative body of the expatriate Greek Community of Istanbul of all the World, has alarmed in past the Turkish Government and International Organizations on the need to take measures in order to eliminate acts of racial hatred in Turkey. We urge the Turkish government to eliminate the mechanisms of production and violence, directed against minority rights, as outlined in the Treaty of Lausanne, the European Convention on Human Rights and other relevant international treaties.

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