

Rhodes, Kos(İstanköy) and the Dodecanese Turks Culture and Solidarity Association

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THE CULTURAL IDENTITIES and RIGHT OF EDUCATION-TRAINING IN TURKISH LANGUAGE OF TURKS LIVING IN RHODES AND KOS MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

In today, there is a Turkish population, whose number is about 9,000 and lives in Rhodes and Kos.

The said islands are located in Aegean Sea.

The Islands were given to Greece in 1947 with Paris Treaty.

The Greek authorities have not recognized our mentioned cognates in “minority” statue due to the fact that the Dodecanese were under the Italian control when Lausanne Treaty was concluded in 1923.

In the year of 1972 , the schools, providing education in Turkish, were closed without any reason.

There are many problems of Turks living in Rhodes and Kos today. They include problems such as Citizenship, the Right to Education in Turkish, Free Practice of Religion, Protection of Cultural Heritage Inherited from the Ottomans, Foundations, and the Environment of Hatred and Oppression.

Greek authorities define them as Greek Muslims. However, they are not Greek Muslims but they are Turks. Living in the Islands, Turks have got to vanishing point. If the assimilation policy of Greece is not “stopped”, in a short time, it will be impossible to mention Turks in the Dodecanese.

Turks in Rhodes and Kos require Greece to:

- Accept Turkish identities
- Provide Turkish children with right of learning Turkish language in the basis of bilingual education
- Protect cultural works remaining from Ottoman Turks
- Enable members of Board in Rhodes and Kos Foundation Inventories to be elected by Turks
- Finalize the hate and pressure environment arising time to time
- Remove the Turcophobic opinions from the lesson books in Greece.

As a member of European Union, Greece should fulfil the responsibilities related to human rights stipulated in Constitution , European Convention on Human Rights and other human right conventions.