



# **ANNUAL REPORT** 2016



### **ANNUAL REPORT**

2016

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### **Freedom Research Association**

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Design: Liber Plus



### **KAZIM BERZEG**

We have lost one of the pioneers of the liberal movement in 2016. Kazim Berzeg was one of our founding members, died on 07.02.2016. His memory will always live with the mission of FRA...

### CONTENT

Foreword 5	
FRA in 2016 8	
Vision and Mission9	
Corporate Strategy 10	)
Advisory Boards and Executive Board14	ł
Project: Regulatory Bodies and Rule of Law 17	,
Events 19	)
Conferences 20	0
Roundtable Meetings 24	4
FreedomTalks@FRA28	8
Publications	1
Commentaries	2
Analyses	4
Reports	6
Books	8
In the News	9
Friends of FRA 43	3
FRA's 2nd Anniversary Reception 50	0
FRA Team Abroad	3
Internship61	1
Partners	2

### FOREWORD

Dear Friend of Liberty,

We left a busy year behind as Freedom Research Association and we've seen many sad events in 2016.

First, we've lost one of our founding members, Kazim Berzeg, who passed away on February 7, 2016. Berzeg was a lawyer who has dedicated his life to defend liberal democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Kazim Berzeg was one of the founders of the FRA, which was established in order to bring a principled critique and to guide decision makers to a reformist line, along with other liberals who are worried about the political, economic and social developments in recent years in our country. We are honored to have his trust and support as FRA. We will continue to defend our liberties for the memory of the Kazim Berzeg.

In 2016, we experienced many terrorist attacks that shocked us all. Our cities were shaken by the bombings and armed attacks of the PKK and ISIS. Hundreds of citizens have lost their lives; many of our citizens were physically injured and we were all terrified. Of course, the greatest odd was the one we saw on the evening of July 15th. In that unfortunate night, a group of coup plotters in the Turkish Armed Forces attempted a bloody coup to seize political power. After neutralizing the chief of the general staff and other generals, plotters have faced a strong popular and political resistance led by President Erdogan. They had to turn themselves in next morning. In that bloody night, more than 250 civilians and security officers were killed. Thousands of our citizens were also wounded. We remember all those who lost their lives.

The government, especially the President and the Prime Minister, suggested that this bloody struggle was an act of the "Fethullahçı Terrorist Organization" (FETO). As a matter of fact, the government has been struggling with this organization for the last 3-4 years and confessions of some captured coup plotters have strengthened this suspicion. Of course, there



are still many aspects yet to be enlightened about the coup attempt. Now, we require a transparent, fast and fair trial to reveal the dark aspects of this coup attempt and an effective punishment for those responsible During this process, we need to take the principles (set forth by the European Court of Human Rights and the Venice Commission)as the basis for the purification of the state from the criminals. However, we should prevent the innocent to suffer along with the guilty.

Within this framework, it must be determined in a concrete way how and to what extent this group is involved in the coup attempt. The members of this group who committed a crime and abused their public authority must be punished.

After the defeat of the coup attempt, the Government rightly has declared a state of emergency (OHAL). Initially, the state of emergency, which has to be limited to 3 months and even to be completed within 1.5 months with the statement of the Government spokesman Numan Kurtulmuş, has been extended twice and still continues. During the state of emergency, more than 100,000 public officials who claimed to be planners and practitioners of the coup attempt have been discharged; more than 40,000 people have been arrested. Those who were exported from public institutions were not limited to those who thought it was the Gulenist. During this time, thousands of teachers allegedly associated with the PKK were expelled. A lot of companies have been appointed as auditors and their assets have been transferred to the national treasury . About 1,500 associations and many media companies were closed down and assets were confiscated by the state. Today more than a hundred journalists are in custody, and this keeps Turkey in the category of "not free" in the World Freedom Index for freedom of the press.

Political freedoms took an important blow with the arrest of several MP's, as well as the co-chairs of the People's Democratic Party (HDP), Selahattin Demirtaş and Figen Yüksekdağ, after the lifting of their parliamentary immunity.

Today, many freedoms, which are an important part of political participation, such as the right to peaceful protest have been seriously restricted because of the state of emergency.

Under these conditions, the Government brought a proposal to the Par-

liament's agenda, suggesting that a presidential system which has very weak checks and balance mechanism and has the potential to gather all the public authority in the hands of the Executive.

This proposal, amending the Constitution, fails to reach the required 367 admission votes for the constitutional amendment. However, it has come to the point of the referendum by providing 330 votes. A referendum on this constitutional amendment will be implemented in spring after the approval of the President in the near future.

As you can see, 2016 has been a very bad year for our country in terms of civil, political and economic freedoms. Despite all these negativities, the FRA continued to work with all its strength. We organized many Freedom-Talks on freedom; roundtable meetings on the presidential system, identity problem and Syrian refugees; conferences on February 28 and May 27 military coups; a separate conference on regulatory bodies and the rule of law. We published a lot of reports, analyses and commentary within the framework of our publishing schedule.

Dear friend of liberty, we will continue to defend liberties in a principle manner in 2017 as FRA. Your support is crucial for us in this struggle. We hope that your support will continue in 2017. We will work with all our power to be worthy of your support.

Your Sincerely, Assoc. Prof. **Bican Şahin** Chairman of the Executive Board





2016 IN A NUTSHELL



### **VISION AND MISSION**

Freedom Research Association (FRA) was founded in August 2014 by a group of academics, business people, journalists and legal experts to conduct public policy research with a liberal and scientific approach. FRA envisions a free and prosperous Turkey. The mission of FRA is to promote evidence-based policy making among decision-makers and an informed public debate in Turkey.

Freedom Research Association is strongly dedicated to individual liberties, rule of law, peace, fair and competitive markets. We believe that a free and prosperous Turkey can only be founded upon universal human rights, rule of law and a competitive free market economy which deters cronyism.

"Institutional Reform" is a key focus area of FRA's research. Main aims of FRA's projects on this area are as follows:

To explore the suitable ground on which Turkey's institutions can operate with reference to universal standards

To propose necessary reforms which need to be done in processes and structures, based on international best case examples

#### FREEDOM RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



### **CORPORATE STRATEGY**

FRA focuses on universal and scientific ethical standards in its work. They formulate their work as inclusive as possible and in accordance with scientific ethical standards. FRA is strictly independent and non-partisan. In order to protect its independence, FRA doesn't accept public funds from state institutions in accordance with its by-law. Transparency and honesty are taken as the basis both for the internal affairs and public relations.



The rules that FRA has determined to ensure the quality of its research are as follows:

The main aim and the purpose of the research should be clearly explained.

The method of the study should be well formulated and applied throughout the research.

The research should provide information/references about the other field works.

The research should be based on the most current and valid data available.

The theses suggested in the research should be clear and justified.

The research should improve the knowledge that exists in the field.

All researches should bring inclusive policy recommendations.

The theses proposed in the research and the proposed policy recommendation should be consistent with the method and findings of the research. All theses and suggestions should be well explained and the weaknesses /deficiencies of the research (if any) should be indicated.

The resulting reports should be well structured, clear and understandable.

The language used in the research reports should be objective, inclusive, constructor and equidistant to different views.

As long as it does not contradict scientific ethical values and the principles of the FRA, no content of any research is intervened based on freedom of opinion. Editorial interventions are the exception to this rule.



### **General Process in the FRA Research**

#### Stage 1.

Identification of Problems:

To bring together the stakeholders who are involved in the research topic or institution.

The content, limitations and method of the research are determined in accordance with the feedback from these discussion (s).

### Stage 2.

**Research Process:** 

In the research process, the research team guide by a specialist will identify the problems in the field, their causes and their effects.

To find out international good examples.

Presenting the results of the research as a solution to the problem identified at the beginning of the research.

### Stage 3.

Announce of the Results to the Public:

Organizing a conference, seminar or press conference where the results will be announced to the public

The research team (or its representative) shares the findings and outcomes of the research with the public.



#### Stage 4.

Advocacy:

The final report will be shared with the relevant departments of the universities, public institutions and organizations, media companies and relevant non-governmental organizations.

Going to the GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY (t to share policy proposals with the MP's.

### NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD



Mustafa Erdoğan Prof.



Orhan Kemal Cengiz Lawyer



Murat Çokgezen Prof.



Erdal Türkkan Prof.



Mustafa Akyol Journalist-Writer



Nesrin Nas Former MP



Melih Yürüşen

Assist. Prof.



Mehmet Turhan Prof.



İhsan Dağı Prof.



### **INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD**



**Charles Butterworth** 



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**Chandran Kukathas** 



Ali Salman



David Schmidtz



Parth Shah



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**Rainer Heufers** 



**Timur Kuran** 



### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**



Bican Şahin President



Veli Kondak



Medeni Sungur Executive Director



Yusuf Ziya Kıvanç



# REGULATORY BODIES AND RULE OF LAW





One of our most important aims, is to promote evidence-based policy making in Turkey and contribute to an informed public policy debate on analytical and rational grounds. In this context, one of the most heated topics is the "Institutional Reform" in Turkey. It is crucial for us to have the institutions that work in accordance with universal democratic standards to become a free and prosperous country.

Based on this preamble, we are carrying out projects to contribute to the institutional reform debate in Turkey. We analyze our institutions in depth, conduct SWOT analyses, organize workshops, draw out roadmaps for the transformation of specific institutions, and identify and demonstrate international best practices.

Our one-year long Project on "Regulatory Institutions and Rule of Law in Turkey" was supported by Atlas Network, Friedrich Naumann Foundation and the MATRA program of the Dutch Embassy and finalized this year.

Within the scope of this project, we examined the performance, structure, functioning, independence and transparency of the major regulatory institutions; Energy Market Regulatory Authority, Information and Communication Authority and Competition Authority. At the end of our one-year research, we prepared a comprehensive policy report based on empirical data and benchmarking. We have shared the report with deputies, bureaucrats, academicians, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

Considering the limited amount of research in this area, we think that this report will make a serious contribution to the literature.



Ali IIıcak Competition Advisor PwC



M. Fevzi Toksoy Competition Advisor ACTECON

### **Research Team:**



**Fuat Oğuz** Prof. Yıldırım Bayezid Uni.



Murat Çokgezen Prof. Marmara University





#### FREEDOM RESEARCH ASSOCIATION





# CONFERENCE: REGULATIONS AND THE RULE OF LAW IN TURKEY (15.04.2016)

We announced the findings of the "Regulatory Institutions and rule of Law" project to the public at the "Regulation in Turkey and the Rule of Law" conference. Our conference took place in Ankara Rixos Hotel on Friday, April 15, 2016 with the participation of nearly hundred guests.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



### CONFERENCE: JUSTICE AND LIBERTY IN TURKEY SINCE FEBRUARY 28, 1997 (27.02.2016)

Honorary President of the Court of Cassation Prof. Sami Selçuk was with us.

"Conference: Justice and Freedom in Turkey since February 28, 1997" was held at Ankara Aldino Hotel with the contributions of Civil Politics Platform.

Prof. Sami Selçuk spoke about the developments and historical milestones for our country with reference to justice and individual liberty in the nineteen years since February 28, 1997.



#### FREEDOM RESEARCH ASSOCIATION





# CONFERENCE: DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW IN TURKEY SINCE MAY 27, 1960 (27.05.2016)

27 May 1960 was the first of a series of military interventions in the 5 decades to come in the history of Turkish Democracy. It requires deeper understanding the nature of these interventions to grasp the full picture.

We hosted former Chief Justice of Constitutional Court Haşim Kılıç in our conference, "Democracy and Law in Turkey from 27 May to the Present", which we organized for the second time this year.

In the conference, we talked about the developments in democracy and law in Turkey since 27 May 1960.

Our conference was held at Ankara Holiday Inn Hotel on May 27, 2016 Friday at 14.00.





#### **WORKSHOPS**

### 1) "REFORMING CONSTITUTION" WORKSHOP SERIES

### Government System Debates in the Context of the New Constitution Proposal (29.04.2016)

As FRA, we organized a series of workshops titled "Constitutional Workshops" on the debates that have been going on continuously for the past year.

In the first workshop, we discussed what the ideal government system should be in the new Constitution.

Our first workshop entitled "Debates on the Government System in the Context of the New Constitution Proposal" took place at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Istanbul on Friday, April 29th, with the support of the International Republican Institute and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.





Among our participants were such prominent experts as Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan, Prof. Serap Yazıcı, Prof. Ergun Özbudun, Prof. İlter Turan, Prof. Levent Köker, Prof. Ömer Faruk Gençkaya, Prof. Tanju Tosun, Assoc. Dr. Ali Rıza Çoban, Taha Akyol, Yılmaz Argüden, Nesrin Nas, Ruhsar Demirel, Murat Mercan, Namık Tan.



## Citizenship and Identity Debates in the Context of the New Constitution Proposal (13.05.2016)

At the second meeting of the "Constitutional Workshop" series, we discussed how citizenship and identity should be defined in the new Constitution.

The workshop was held on Friday, May 13 at the HiltonSA Hotel in Ankara with the support of the International Republican Institute and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. The topic was "Citizenship and Identity Discussions in the Context of the New Constitutional Proposal".



Among our participants were Ruhsar Demirel - VP of Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), Garo Paylan and Ayhan Bilgen- MPs of People's Democratic Party (HDP), Murat Özkan – Former MP of MHP, Doğan Bermek – President of Alawite Philosophy Center, Prof. İhsan Dağı - Middle East Technical University, Karel Valensi - Şalom Newspaper, Abdülbaki Erdoğmuş - Former MP of Motherland Party, Mehmet Doğan, Ömer Atalar – Board Member of Federation of the Caucasian Associations (Kaffed), Orhan Kemal Cengiz- Lawyer, Prof. Hasan Onat – Ankara University Faculty of Divinity, Assist. Prof. Melih Yürüşen, Cafer Solgun.

### 2) ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY THE REFUGEE CRISIS & THE MEDIA SITUATION (21.11.2016)

Our cooperation with Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation to address key democratic issues in Turkey was in full swing in 2016.

We jointly organized a roundtable meeting on November 21st at the Ankara Sheraton Hotel. The topic was "The Refugee Crisis and the Media Situation". Local and international press representatives from Turkey, academicians, Swedish and Turkish parliamentarians, Syria, Turkey and European NGO's representatives participated.

### LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE: COMMENTARY





### FREEDOMTALKS@FRA

"FreedomTalks" are FRA's weekly discussion series. With an expert speaker, we do discuss the pros and cons of a particular public policy issue every week in FRA's seminar hall.

We have hosted several important speakers during the past year at FreedomTalks.

### 1) Vahap Coşkun (22.01.2016): Kurdish Issue and The Hope of Peace



### 2) Doğu Ergil (05.02.2016): The Final Point of the Kurdish Issue



3) Assoc. Prof. Burak Bilgehan Özpek: - Freedom of Press in Turkey(26.02.2016)



- Turkey's Middle East Policy (28.10.2016)



Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği Siyaset Konuşmaları

"Türkiye'nin Güncel Ortadoğu Siyaseti" Burak Bilgehan Özpek



### 5) Justice and Development Party (AKP) Former MP, Suat Kınıklıoğlu: Turkey's Middle East Policy and Democratic Politics ( 08.04.2016 )



### 6) Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan: Foundations of a Free Society (03.06.2016)



### 7) Assoc. Prof. Bican Şahin:

### - A Liberal Assessment of the Coup Attempt of July 15 (20.10.2016)



- Debates on the Presidental System Proposal (23. 12.2016)



8) Prof. Hasan Onat: Theological Background of Violence in Islamic Geography ( 04.11.2016)





# 9) Prof. Erdal Türkkan: The Effects of State of Emergency on Turkish Economy (11.11.2016)



10) Writer - Journalist Sibel Hürtaş: Violence Against Women and Sexual Abuse in Turkey (02.12.2016)



11) The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV), Director of the European Union Institute, Nilgün Arısan Eralp: The Future of Turkey and EU Relations (09.12.2016)



# PUBLICATIONS





#### LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE: COMMENTARY

Commentaries are short articles reflecting a liberal perspective written by our experts, on a public policy related topic, 3-5 pages long.

Last year we published two commentaries.

#### 1) Dr. Aykut Ekinci: Debating the Future of the Turkish Economy

In this commentary, Dr. Aykut Ekinci examines the future of the Turkish economy through concepts such as law and institutions, education, financial stability and limited government.

After analyzing the history of the Turkish economy, Dr. Ekinci discusses the growth in the 90s and 2000s. Later he focuses on the future of the Turkish economy and conducts a SWOT analysis with the help of the viewpoints obtained from the previous sections.



### 2) Ülkü Doğan – Sibel Dolgun – Aslı Gökçe Seven: A Legal Inquiry and Investigation on Abortion

Ülkü Doğan, Sibel Dolgun ve Aslı Gökçe Seven investigate the abortion under the light of Human Rights Law and evaluated the practice in Turkey in terms of the principle of legal security.





### LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE: ANALYSIS

An analysis is an in-depth investigation of a public-policy issue from a liberal perspective, based on data and research, generally 20-30 pages long. Last year we published two analyses.

#### 1) Prof. Güneri Akalın:

### Economic and Social Articles for the New Constitutional Proposal

Just before the proposal of the new Constitution, we published our proposals for economic articles as well as for the other articles of the Constitution.

Prof. Dr. Güneri Akalın states that the economic articles should be discussed as much as civil and political provisions in case of a possible constitutional amendment in this analysis. Prof. Akalin shares his views on the economic issues that must be incorporated into the new Constitution for a competitive and law-based economic order.



### 2) Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan: Presidential System, Latin America Experience and Turkey

Prof. Mustafa Erdogan has prepared an extensive evaluation of the proposed constitutional amendment. The debates on the government system that have never been out of Turkey's political agenda for the last four decades. He explores the possible long-term effects of if the proposal is passed from the referendum Turkey in a comparative analysis with Latin America presidential systems.





#### LIBERAL PERSPECTIVE: REPORT

Our reports are generally prepared after a lengthy research process(3-5 months) of a public policy issue and generally includes extensive reform proposals to the government in that particular area. Last year we published two reports.

### 1) Assoc. Prof. Murat Yanık: Political Parties and Democracy in Turkey.

Assoc. Dr. Murat Yanık identifies the problems of political party law in Turkey and presents suggestions from a liberal perspective. He proposes an alternative setting in which the distribution of power can be achieved within political parties.


### 2) Ali Ilıcak – Dr. Fevzi Toksoy – Prof. Fuat Oğuz – Prof. Murat Çokgezen: Regulatory Institutions and Rule of Law

As the Freedom Research Association, we have completed our research on "Regulatory Institutions and Rule of Law in Turkey".1

In this research, Energy Market Regulatory Authority, Information and Communication Authority and Competition Authority were examined around the criteria of transparency and independence. The reports written by Prof. Murat Çokgezen, Prof. Fuat Oğuz, Dr. Fevzi Toksoy and Ali Ilıcak were published in a single book.



<sup>1.</sup> We thank the MATRA program of the Embassy of Netherlands for contributions to this research.



### BOOKS

Liberal literatüre grows in Turkish.

We translated "Peace Love and Liberty" and "Why Liberty" (edited by Dr. Tom G. Palmer) into Turkish.

You can access our books from the internet and all bookstores.

We thank our translators and ORION Publishings for their support.



## IN THE NEWS





Our work, as always, has been covered extensively in both mainstream and online media.

Examples;

1) Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan's - Liberal Perspective: Presidential System, Latin America Experience and Turkey.



### Liberal bakış: ABD'de başarılı olan başkanlık sistemi Latin Amerika'da niye başarısız oldu?



Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan'ın, Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği tarafından yayınlanan araştırması...



### 2) Conference: Democracy and Rule of Law in Turkey since May 27, 1960



Yarına Bakış'tan Ünal Livaneli'nin haberine göre Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği'nin düzenlediği '27 Mayıs'tan Bugüne Türkiye'de Demokrasi ve Hukuk' konulu konferansta konuşan Kılıç, söz konusu yüksek yargı

üyelerini topa tuttu.

T24 =		en Q	Arikara 5	e	EUR 4.0489	👌 Ruoya'nın Ark seikasti	ara Büyükolçisi'ne
Anasayfa	Haberler	Yazarlar	Spor	Galeri	Video	Konular	Bir Bakışta Bugün
29 Mayıs 2016 Lığılı Adefile Erodgini ayut sıra bu kez Kış Ci Beden P V Twecke In Paylaşın Get 0	s Röz spitanlarinn geziennde tehride ver tim tim bir bir dü Ya Arn Tü Kol ba	te gezisine eş Kırşehirdeki tışmalar sürü rdiğini* vurgul iş <b>im Kılıç</b> , "Cu dönemde Ya dikte seyahat şürücü bir dar rına Bakış'tan aştırmaları De rkiye'de Demo iç, Ahmet Dav	lik edip birl Ahilik Hafta yor. 'Görün ayan eski A mhurbaşka rgitay, Sayıs etmesi fevk vranıştır'' de <b>Ünal Livan</b> emeği'nin d okrasi ve Hi rutoğlu'nun vinden azlin	ikte çay to ası Kutlam tünün yarç unayasa M anı siyasi p ştay ve Da calade zarı edi. meli'nin hab üzenlediği ukuk' konu başbakan u ve yerine	plamaların aları'na kat gı güvenilirl ahkemesi ( partisi ile fiil nıştay başk ar verici ve perine göre, '27 Mayıs't du konferar ilik ve AK P	iğine zarar (AYM) Başkanı len iç içe. Böyle canlarının böyle yargıya gölge Kılıç, Özgürlük tan Bugüne ısta konuştu.	





#### EN ÖNEMLİSİ

ABD'de başarılı olan başkanlık sistemi niye Latin Amerika'da başarısız oldu? Prof. Mustafa Erdoğan "Başkanlık Sistemi, Latin Amerika Tecrübesi ve Türkiye" adlı araştırmasında anlatıyor: Denetim ve denge başkan lehine bozulursa ve demokratik kültür zayıfsa başarısız oluyor.

Prof. Erdoğan, bizdeki teklifte de başkanın Meclis'e karşı aşırı güçlendirildiğini belirtiyor: Seçimlerin aynı gün yapılması, başkanın Meclis'i kolayca feshedebilmesi fakat TBMM'nin aynı yetkiyi kullanmasının çok zor şartlara bağlanması, başkanın kararnameler çıkarması, yargıya atamalar yapması...

Kamu kurum ve kuruluşlarının Meclis'te müzakere edilmeden başkanlık kararnameleriyle düzenlenmesi...

Uzatmayım, Prof. Erdoğan'ın yazısını şu linkte bulabilirsiniz: www.ozgurlukarastirmalari.com

Komisyonda düzeltilmez de TBMM'nin işlevi böyle azalırsa sorunlar artmaz mı?

Parlamento'nun kapsayıcı temsiliyeti ve denetim yetkileri böyle daraltılırsa toplumun çeşitli kesimlerinde yabancılaşma duygusu artmaz mı?!

Osmanlı dönemindeki kimlik kutuplaşmalarını, Sevr'i, Milli Mücadele'yi ve Lozan'ı iyi okumuş bir vatandaş olarak benim en büyük endişem budur.

### 3) Prof. Ergun Özbudun – Presidential System and Turkey



\* Başkanlık sistemi ne anlama geliyor?

Başkanlık sistemi, genel olarak devlet yönetiminde tek bir kişinin başkanlığında hükümet etme ve devleti yönetme esasına bağlı siyasi sistem olarak tarif ediliyor. Yasama, yürütme ve yargı organları arasında kesin bir ayrıma ve dengeye dayanan, yasama ve yargı organlarının demokratik denetimi içinde, yürütmenin iktidar olanaklarını genişleten bir hükümet sistemi olarak nitelenen başkanlık sistemi, 'başkanlık hükümeti' olarak da adlandırılıyor. Geçen yıl Özgürlük Araştırmaları Derneği için "Başkanlık Sistemi ve Türkiye" başlıklı bir çalışma hazırlayan Prof. Dr. Ergun Özbudun'un bu konuda şu vurgusu önemli: "Parlamenter Rejim, Başkanlık ve yarı- Başkanlık hükümeti tipleri, kuvvetler ayrılığı kriterine, daha doğrusu yasama-yürütme ilişkilerinin düzenleniş tarzına göre birbirinden ayrılan hükümet sistemleridir. Hukuk devletinin vazgeçilmez şartı olan yargı bağımsızlığı, hükümet şekli ne olursa olsun, bütün çağdaş demokratik rejimlerde korunduğuna göre, yargıyı bu tablonun dışında tutmak gerekir."

## FRIENDS OF FRA



#### FREEDOM RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



Throughout 2016, we came together at various meetings with our domestic and foreign partners.

1) We were together with the President of Sivil Siyaset Platformu Abdulbaki Erdoğmuş and Mehmet Doğan to talk about the new projects.



2) We were in the meetings organized by the Checks and Balance Network and aimed at receiving views and proposals of the next year from the civil society organizations in Turkey.



3) İsrafil Özkan and Nisa Bahçeli were in the training program organized by the Checks and Balance Network.



4) Medeni Sungur was in Antalya together with the other members of Checks and Balance Network to contribute to Constitutional Reform Group.



#### FREEDOM RESEARCH ASSOCIATION





5) We participated in the VII. Liberal Youth Congress organized by the 3H Movement.

FRA contributed to the biggest annual gathering of young Turkish Liberals.

6) We organized the IV. Liberal Economics Congress in cooperation with 3H Movement, Bilkent Politics Platform and Friedrich Naumann Foundation – Turkey Office .



7) The workshop "Turkey, Human Rights Mechanisms and Civil Liberties" organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation – Turkey Office together with the European Liberal Forum was held in Polonezköy between 4-7 May. Bican Şahin and Medeni Sungur attended the workshop on behalf of FRA.





8) Friedrich Naumann Foundation - Turkey Office conducted a research called "Void of Liberalism: A view on Liberal Values in Turkey" in June. The results of the research were shared with the public on 12 October. Bican Şahin also attended the meeting where the results of the survey were explained.



9) Third Edition of the Averroes Academy

President Bican Şahin, İsrafil Özkan and our Advisory Board Member Mustafa Akyol attended to the Third Edition of the Averroes Academy which is organized by the Arab Center for Scientific Research and Human Studies.



10) TC. Başbakanlık Kamu Görevlileri Etik Kurulu – Project: As the Key Ethics for the Prevention of Corruption in Turkey

Medeni Sungur has been invited to the workshop "Project: Ethics for the Prevention of Corruption in Turkey" organized by Prime Minister's office.





### FRA'S BIRTHDAY: AUGUST, 15, 2016

Happy 2nd Anniversary!

Thanks for supporting us!



Happy 2nd Anniversary Freedom Research Association

Thanks for supporting us! For a free and prosperous Turkey...

### 2nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY (07.10.2016)

FRA held its 2nd General Assembly on 10th of October, 2016 with the participation of FRA's Boards of Directors and Advisors.







### FRA's 2nd ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION (07.10.2016)

Our 2nd Anniversary Reception hosted many renowned scholars, journalists, business people and friends of FRA. Our keynote speaker was our long time friend and advisory board member Mustafa Akyol.





### FRA TEAM ABROAD





As part of an international network of more than 480 classical liberal thinktanks all around the world, FRA has a global perspective and sense of cooperation with its peer organizations. One of the key targets is to become a competent research institute with considerable human and physical capital. For that reason, FRA team attends numerous events all arounda the globe, as participants, speakers or contributors, to increase the Association's capacity. Here's a quick snapshopt:

### 1) European Liberty Forum @London – United Kingdom, 2016

Bican Şahin was in London to attend the European Liberty Forum.





### 2) Transatlantic CEO Summit @Windsor, June 2016

Bican Sahin was in the UK / Windsor in June to represent our Association at the event organized by Atlas Network for think tank CEOs.



### 3) Miami Liberty Forum @Miami, September 2016

Bican Sahin was in Miami (USA) in September to join the Miami Liberty Forum organized by Atlas Network.





#### 4) Freedom Dinner @New York City, 2016

Bican Sahin attended Atlas Network's annual flagship event: Liberty Forum and Freedom Dinner! He joined more than 700 think-tank representatives from all around the world.



### 5) International Coalition Meeting @Washington DC, September 2016

Bican Sahin was in Washington, DC, in September to attend the International Coalition Meeting and make a presentation for representatives of America's leading non-governmental organizations.



### 6) Leadership for Young Leaders, @Germany, April 2016

Israfil Özkan attended the 'Leadership for Young Leaders' training organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. For two weeks, Israfil was trained in a variety of topics, including leadership, project coordination, effective and beautiful speech, press conference organization, and positive communication channels. İsrafil enrolled into the International Academy of Freedom with this event.



During his education in Germany, Israfil followed the election process of the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

Israfil took part in the regular congress of the FDP, which was held before the general elections to be held in 2017.





### 7- Think – Tank School

Israfil Özkan participated in the Think-Tank Shcool in Vilnius, Lithuania on June 19-24.

Israfil has been trained in coalition building, strategic planning, resource development and public relations by Zilivinas Silenas, President of the Lithuanian Free Market Institute, Joe Lehman, President of the Mackinac Center, and Matthew Sinclair, Head of Westbourne Communications.



8) "Future of Freedom" Annual Consultation for East and Southeast Europe @Bucharest, September 2016.



The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom organized this year's Future of Freedom event in the Romanian capital, Bucharest. The Foundation also commemorated its 25th anniversary in Romania. Israfil Özkan and Nalan Yeşim Erdoğan were in the delegation attending the meeting from Turkey. Our team has introduced our Association in the sessions that were organized to get partners to recognize each other.



9) Communication Strategy and Media Skills @Germany, September 2016

Nisa Bahçeli was in Gummersbach, Germany, to participate in the 'Communication Strategy and Media Skills' training organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.





### 10) US State Department Professional Fellows Programme @USA, November 2016

Medeni Sungur was in the United States to participate in the US State Department's Professional Fellows Program. Medeni Sungur, who was assigned to the Hawaii Representative Assembly in the program between October 11th and November 19th, had the opportunity to visit agencies such as ACLU Hawaii, Honolulu City Council and Hawaii Chamber of Commerce. He also spoke at Hawaii Pacific University and the Pacific Club Business Society.





### **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

FRA continues to organize successful internship and fellowship modules for young experts from all around the world.

This year, we had Caleb Watney from George Mason University's Mercatus Center in our summer fellowship program.



Check out the internship opportunities from our website for a successful and challenging experience.

We would like to thank our partners who worked in 2016.



Friedrich Naumann FÜR DIE FREIHEIT



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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