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\*\*\***MEDIA ADVISORY**\*\*\*

**Young Turkish Political Leaders Begin Louisiana Visit Today;  
Delegates to Engage in Dialogue with Local Political Leaders, Study American Political System**

WASHINGTON – A delegation of six young, prominent Turkish political leaders will arrive in New Orleans, Louisiana *this afternoon, December 5, 2007*, as part of a ten day political exchange program organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and funded by the U.S. Department of State. The delegates kicked off their program with meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. and they will also visit Baton Rouge before leaving on the morning of Saturday, December 8, 2007 to finish their program in Vermont. During their stay in Louisiana they will be hosted by State Senator-Elect Cheryl A. Gray, a 2006 ACYPL delegate to Russia. Since 1998 ACYPL has organized its inbound and outbound exchanges with Turkey in cooperation with the ARI Movement, a grass roots think tank dedicated to reforming Turkey's political system.

**Who:** Prominent, emerging Turkish political leaders between the ages of twenty five and forty, including:

- **Ms. Ayça Akpek** (SHP – Social Democratic People's Party) - Member, SHP Executive Committee
- **Ms. Özlem Gürses Tatar** (Non-affiliated) - Anchorwoman, HaberTürk National TV
- **Mr. Murat Hazinedar** (CHP – Republican People's Party) - Member, Political Commission, Sisli Municipality
- **His Excellency Burhan Kayatürk, MP** (AKP – Justice and Development Party) - Member, Grand National Assembly of Turkey
- **Mr. Ümit Kumcuoğlu** (Escort) - Director of Investments, Kiraca Group
- **Mr. Ahmet Şavkin** (ARI Movement) - Member & Former Vice Chairman, ARI Movement

**What:** Program highlights will include:

- Meetings with House Speaker Joe Salter and other leaders and members of the Louisiana state legislature, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Baton Rouge Mayor-President Kip Holden, a 1991 ACYPL delegate to the former U.S.S.R.; St. Bernard Parish President Junior Rodriguez; Jefferson Parish Council Chairman Tom Compella and officials from the Port of New Orleans;
- Briefings on the Louisiana education system by senior officials from the Louisiana State Department of Education, the New Orleans Public School System, the Recovery School District and Algiers Charter Schools; and
- Tours of the Louisiana State Capitol Building, the Lower Ninth Ward and the Port of New Orleans.

**When:** December 5-6, 2007 (New Orleans)  
December 7, 2007 (Baton Rouge)

**Why:** The purpose of this exchange program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels;
- Give them a new perspective on American culture; and
- Allow them to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their American counterparts.

***About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)***

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 857-0999 x27 OR [mgarretson@acypl.org](mailto:mgarretson@acypl.org).