

CONTACT:

Mike Garretson, ACYPL Communications Coordinator
(202) 857-0999 x27 or mgarretson@acypl.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Young Turkish Leaders Kick off U.S. Political Exchange in the District
Delegates to Study U.S. Political System, Discuss Bi-Lateral, Regional & International Issues**

WASHINGTON – On Saturday, December 1, 2007, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) will welcome a delegation of six young, prominent Turkish political leaders to Washington, D.C. as they kick off a ten day political exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State which will also take them to Louisiana and Vermont. 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 Hazedar** (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 U.S. Senator David Vitter (R-La.) and U.S. Representative Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) as well as representatives from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, the Democratic National Committee, the Young Republican National Federation, EMILY'S List and the Leadership Institute.
- In-depth discussions on the workings of the U.S. political system and a wide range of current bi-lateral, regional and international issues.

When: December 1-5, 2007

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 202-857-0999 x27 OR mgarretson@acypl.org.

###