



Association of Turkish Americans Of Southern California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATASC LAUNCHES “THE VAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF CAMPAIGN”

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The Association of Turkish Americans of Southern California (ATASC) has launched the “Van Earthquake Relief Campaign” to raise funds for the *Türk Kızılayı* (Turkish Red Crescent), a relief organization which is helping victims of the recent devastating earthquake in Turkey.

On October 23, 2011, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit eastern parts of Turkey, with an epicenter at approximately 30 kilometers north of the city of Van. The deadly quake occurred on Sunday afternoon and lasted 25 seconds. Provincial capital Van, with a population of 380,000, and the eastern city of Ercis were the worst affected. Nearly 500 people were killed, more than 1,300 were injured. The death count is likely to rise further as many people are still missing and 2,262 buildings have collapsed.

On behalf of the Turkish-American community members, we offer our deepest condolences to the families, who lost their loved ones in this disaster. Our thoughts and sympathies are with them, and we also wish a rapid recovery and rebuilding for those who were injured or lost their homes.

We appeal to diverse communities across Southern California to join in our efforts to assist the victims of the quake in getting access to the much needed services in the coming harsh winter months. ATASC fund will initially support the Turkish Red Crescent, working diligently to provide disaster relief. Over time, the fund may transition to support long-term recovery efforts.

Please consider contributing to our campaign by donating online at www.atasc.org by clicking on the “donate” button or by sending a check to "ATASC" with *Kızılay* (or Turkish Red Crescent) in the memo section to the address below:

ATASC
2419 E. Harbor Blvd #185
Ventura, CA 93001

To receive continuous updates about this campaign, please visit us at <http://www.atasc.org> or write to info@atasc.org.

ATASC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (EIN# 33-0190399) established in 1953 to foster Turkish-American grassroots via cultural, educational, and social activities. ATASC comprises of five regional chapters: San Diego (ATASC-SD), Orange County (OCTAA), Los Angeles (LATAA), and Ventura Counties (VATAN); and the philanthropic chapter, the Turkish-American Ladies League (TALL).