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Now we have become real citizens

The government's decision to return the properties of minority foundations, in accordance with the 1936 declaration, brought joy to minority representatives. Non-Muslim citizens say this step has established a positive relationship with the state.

The decree regarding the return of real estate acquired by minority foundations after 1936 and transferred to the Treasury after 1974 was met with great joy in minority communities. Representatives of non-Muslim citizens stated that with this regulation, they now feel more like citizens. They stated that Prime Minister Erdoğan "approached people like human beings," and that with the decree, which they described as a "historic step," the government declared, "I am not afraid of my minorities," and stood by them. The community representatives stated the following:

Minorities now live more comfortably

La-ki Vingas, Representative of Minority Community Foundations, said: "They're calling from home and abroad to congratulate us and immediately ask about the value of the assets. I've also identified the shortcomings. The issuance of this decree is a very positive and welcome development for all of Turkey. Minorities will now live more comfortably. Of course, it's not all about property. I've received very positive feedback from both home and abroad. With this decree, Turkey has established a better relationship with communities."

The Prime Minister's case is a humanitarian incident

Jerry Minnayan, President of the Armenian Universal Tolerance Association, said: "Thankfully, thanks to our sensitive and philanthropic Prime Minister, this disgrace to humanity has been eliminated. Minorities will now own the property that belongs to them. Foundations were going to the ECHR to get their rights. There was a material and moral distress. The Republic of Turkey was being tried there, and they were receiving punishments. What the Prime Minister did is an act of humanity. Our Prime Minister, whom I have known since his time as mayor, is a man of humanity."

ISTANBUL



Hsin Sahin

"We have passed, but none of them took such a historic step. If the Prime Minister had not had this philosophy, it would have been a dream for us to have won this."

It was not a legal issue but a political one,

said Cem, the lawyer of the Orthodox Patriarchate.

Sofuoğlu: A 40-year-long injustice and unlawfulness has ended. This is a historic

development for Turkey. There will be no appeal to the ECHR on the grounds of human rights violations on this issue. The military was not happy with the granting of this right to religious communities. It's a sign that military tutelage has lost its influence. This is a political issue, not a legal one. The government has provided a political solution to this. The government has declared, 'I don't fear my minorities; in fact, I see them as a cultural asset,' and has embraced them.

We will apply after the holiday

Silvio Avadio, former president of the Turkish Jewish

Community, said, "The issuance of the decree is a very positive development. We will apply after the holiday and demand the return of our cemeteries. We have cemeteries in Istanbul and throughout Anatolia. We will conduct a study to determine the exact number, and thanks to the decree, we will get them back. This is a major innovation for Turkey. A more democratic and tolerant picture of minorities has emerged."

European Commission: Positive step

The European Commission also expressed its satisfaction with the implementation in a written statement. The Commission's statement noted that these developments were positive and helpful in terms of religious freedom in practice. The Commission stated that the Turkish authorities will implement the new law.



Tekfur Palace Jewish Foundation

The government announced that the number of properties to be transferred to foundations under the new regulation is 347. Foundations General Director Adnan Ertem told NTV, "We anticipate that applications will be received regarding these 347 properties under this law. Among these 347 properties are factories, mansions, schools, land, and graves."

On the other hand, in the report titled "A Story of Alienation" prepared by lawyer Kezaban Hatemi and TESEV Officer Dilek Kurban, the prominent property issues regarding minorities are...

The following examples were given for the runes:

Jewish Community: The Jewish community

a total of 24 real estate properties.

Greek Community: As of March 2, a total of 24 foundations belonging to the Greek Orthodox Community were declared defunct. These foundations include the Heybeliada Girls' Orphanage, the Tarabya St. George Church, the Büyükkada Greek Orphanage, the Heybeliada Hristos Monastery, and the Büyükkada St. Nicholas Greek Monastery. Nearly 1,000 properties belonging to these foundations were seized.

Armenian Community: In accordance with the 1936 Declaration, more than 30 properties belonging to the Armenian Community were seized. These included the Gedikpaşa Armenian Protestant Primary School, Tuz-la Camp, and Yedikule Surn Piroic Ermani.