

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

**Research Response Number:** TUR30297  
**Country:** Turkey  
**Date:** 6 July 2006

Keywords: Turkey – Turkish Citizenship Law

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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**Questions**

**1. Is there currently a bill proposing an amendment to the Turkish Citizenship Law?**

**RESPONSE**

**1. Is there currently a bill proposing an amendment to the Turkish Citizenship Law?**

According to the Turkish Press Review citing the New Anatolian-Turkish Daily News, there is currently a bill being debated to change the citizenship laws particularly in relation to foreigners. The article states:

A bill proposing an amendment to the Turkish Citizenship Law, which would introduce new regulations on the naturalization of foreigners in Turkey, will be debated by Parliament's Interior Commission on Wednesday. Under the bill, foreigners who want to obtain Turkish citizenship would be eligible if they fulfill the necessary requirements, although fulfilling them wouldn't mean automatic naturalization. The necessary requirements for foreigners to acquire Turkish nationality would include being of legal age; being of sound mind; have been settled in Turkey for five years; behaving in a way which confirms their intent to settle in Turkey; have no dangerous diseases; be of good moral character; be able to speak reasonable Turkish; have an income or job which provides enough for them to support themselves and dependants; and for them not to pose a threat to national security or public order. Those who fail to do obligatory military service and acquire foreign citizenship without permission from the authorities would no longer be stripped off their nationality under the bill. In related news, an antiterrorism bill that has become controversial over suspicions that it might pave the way for an amnesty to Abdullah Ocalan, jailed head of the terrorist group PKK, is on its way to Parliament's agenda again. The bill is to be handed over to the Justice Committee by a sub-commission. The sub-commission has removed an article that critics said would pave the way for an amnesty for Ocalan but has insisted to keep another article that military circles oppose. That article envisages a reduction in punishment for unarmed illegal organizations. The Justice Committee is now expected to take up the bill tomorrow and Parliament is likely to enact the bill before its summer recess, most probably the next week at the latest (2006, 'Parliament to debate Turkish Citizenship Bill', Turkish Press Review <http://www.byegm.gov.tr/YAYINLARIMIZ/CHR/ING2006/06/06x06x19.HTM#%207> – Accessed 6 July 2006 – Attachment 1).

**List of Sources Consulted**

Internet Sources:

Copernic search engine

Turkish Daily News

Turkish Press.com

BBC News

Turkish Weekly

<http://www.turkishdailynes.com>

<http://www.turkishpress.com/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/>

<u>Databases:</u>		
Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, U.S. Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i> .
UNHCR	<i>REFWORLD</i>	UNHCR Refugee Information Online
Public	<i>JANE'S</i>	Jane's Intelligence Review
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

**List of Attachments**

1. 2006, 'Parliament to debate Turkish Citizenship Bill', Turkish Press Review

<http://www.byegm.gov.tr/YAYINLARIMIZ/CHR/ING2006/06/06x06x19.HTM#%207> – Accessed 6 July 2006.