

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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GNCHR STATEMENT

**regarding the decisions of Areios Pagos (Supreme Civil and Penal Court of Greece) on
the eight Turkish military officers**

Preliminary English version

30 January 2017

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) is the independent advisory body to the Greek State on matters pertaining to human rights protection. It was established by Law 2667/1998 and is functioning in accordance with the UN Paris Principles. Thirty-two institutions whose activities cover the field of human rights are currently represented in the GNCHR (independent authorities, departments of university-level educational institutions, trade unions, NGOs, political parties and ministries).

STATEMENT OF THE GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (GNCHR) REGARDING THE DECISIONS OF AREIOS PAGOS (SUPREME CIVIL AND PENAL COURT OF GREECE) ON THE EIGHT TURKISH MILITARY OFFICERS*

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR), in its capacity as the independent advisory body to the Greek State specialised in human rights issues and following its Statement dated 20.7.2016 regarding the examination of the applications for international protection submitted by the eight Turkish military officers¹, expresses unanimously its satisfaction for the decisions of Areios Pagos (Supreme Civil and Penal Court of Greece) concerning their non-extradition. According to the decisions delivered by the three chambers of Areios Pagos, the possibility of annulling or restricting the framework of the rights of the requested persons, regardless of the degree of their guilt and the gravity of the offences committed by them, does not allow for the implementation of the provisions governing their extradition, since the latter are subordinate to overriding human rights norms.

The human value and dignity, as guaranteed by the principles of fair trial and of prohibition of all forms of torture, belong to the core of our legal civilization and constitute non-negotiable principles which underpin *all* European and international human rights instruments. In the current ominous context, which has global characteristics, one notices the domination of threats, fear, uncertainty and the recession of the fundamental values and human rights norms. The abovementioned judgments of the Supreme Civil and Penal Court of Greece symbolise the victory of the rule of law. The unimpeded implementation of the Hellenic Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights by the independent Hellenic Justice is a supreme institutional guarantee of our Polity; negotiations, setbacks and calculations have no place in it.

* The Statement was adopted by the Plenary of the GNCHR at its session of 30 January 2017.

¹ GNCHR, *Statement regarding the applications for international protection submitted by the eight Turkish military officers*, 20.7.2016.