

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

H.J.R. 1093  
Jun 11, 2018  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR10495-LG-167

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Sponsors: Representatives McGrady, Bert Jones, Ager, and Dollar (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to:

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1 A JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE RELEASE OF PASTOR ANDREW BRUNSON  
2 FROM A TURKISH PRISON.

3 Whereas, Pastor Andrew Brunson is an American citizen and from Black Mountain,  
4 North Carolina, who has served as a missionary and pastor in Turkey since 1993; and

5 Whereas, Pastor Brunson was detained and formally arrested following the Turkish  
6 government's imposition of a State of Emergency after a violent coup attempt in July 2016 that  
7 was rightly opposed by the United States and Turks from across the political spectrum; and

8 Whereas, during the State of Emergency, tens of thousands of citizens of Turkey and  
9 citizens of the United States were arrested on vague criminal charges based on false evidence;  
10 and

11 Whereas, the Turkish government detained Pastor Brunson in 2016 without issuing  
12 an indictment until March of 2018; and

13 Whereas, Pastor Brunson faces a possible sentence of 35 years for being involved in  
14 a "terrorist organization," while merely being a Christian pastor and missionary in Turkey; and

15 Whereas, Pastor Brunson's next hearing date is July 18, 2018, at which time he will  
16 have spent 649 days of his life away from his family, including his wife and two daughters, in a  
17 Turkish prison on wrongful and unfair charges; and

18 Whereas, Foreign Minister Cavusoglu stated, "What needs to be done is the United  
19 States needs to let go of this"; and

20 Whereas, 66 bipartisan members of the United States Senate and 154 bipartisan  
21 members of the United States House of Representatives signed separate letters to Recep Tayyip  
22 Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, urging him to release Pastor Brunson; and

23 Whereas, Turkey and the United States are both members of the North Atlantic Treaty  
24 Organization; and

25 Whereas, Turkey's ongoing policy of unlawfully detaining United States citizens  
26 significantly damages economic and diplomatic cooperation and undermines the long-standing  
27 trust between our State and country rooted in NATO principles; Now, therefore,

28 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

29 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly joins members of the United States Congress  
30 in asking that Pastor Brunson be released from prison immediately.

31 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly encourages Congress and the Trump  
32 Administration to take necessary steps to protect the interests of American citizens in Turkey,  
33 including with sanctions and other appropriate means.

34 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
35 to the members of North Carolina's congressional delegation.

36 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.

