

Havana 12 August 2016

Dear Mrs. Fabiola Lopez,

As I am approaching the end of my 4-year mission in Cuba I wanted to share with you my frustration and disappointment with Telesur news.

This letter is not a reaction to some latest news or comments against Turkey. This is an objective comment with regards to Telesur news obtained during my 4 year experience in Havana with Telesur.

Telesur news on Turkey are totally biased. Any type of news regarding Turkey is broadcasted on Telesur screens negatively. Telesur news on Turkey are designed with the aim of staining the image of this country.

Why is it so? I do not have the answer. I cannot explain it. So far my requests to meet with you have been declined. Since the headquarters of Telesur is in Caracas my hands are tied in front of Telesur screens.

Even the failed coup which occurred on the evening of 15 July in Turkey is reflected negatively giving implicitly the idea that it was a plot of President Erdoğan to strengthen his grips over the opposition. This is an open insult to the memory of the 240 Turkish citizens fallen while standing against the tanks of the putchists that night.

The way Telesur is reflecting the news with regards to the tentative of military coup in Turkey is against the ethical principles of fair journalism.

Thanks to the firm political will and the courage of Turkish citizens, the 70 year-old multi-party

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and pluralistic democracy is protected and the constitutional order saved.

The Turkish media also played an exceptional role in making the coup attempt fail: Telesur failed also to notice how brave and united the Turkish media against the putch was.

Turkish Government together with the opposition organized a rally on 7 August in Istanbul which gathered 3.5 million people from all political backgrounds. This unprecedented rally again was not noticed properly by Telesur. Telesur was unable to get the messages given by millions of people representing 90% of the Turkish voters.

Through you I wish to ask the following questions to the Headquarters of Telesur in Caracas: Can any journalist working with Telesur imagine a huge rally of millions of people in Caracas where all major political parties are brought together (PSUV and MUD supporters hand to hand)?

In Turkey we succeeded that. All mainstream Turkish political parties were united to protect the democracy and avoid the authoritarian rule.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to recommend Telesur authorities to visit the following Websites where detailed information on the fail coup is available:

www.havana.be.mfa.gov.tr/ShowAnnouncement.aspx?ID=308946

<http://havana.be.mfa.gov.tr/ShowAnnouncement.aspx?ID=309182>

http://www.mfa.gov.tr/article-by-h e -mr -mevl%C3%BCt-%C3%A7avu%C5%9Fo%C4%9Flu_-the-minister-of-foreign-affairs-of-turkey-entitled-turkey_-the-night-of-the-ordinary-hero_.en.mfa

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/turkish-embassy-in-havana/turqu%C3%ADa-la-noche-del-h%C3%A9roe-ordinario-mevlut-%C3%A7avu%C5%9Fo%C4%9Flu-es-el-ministro-de-relacion/1064661963616553>

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http://www.mfa.gov.tr/article-by-h_e_-mevl%C3%BCt-%C3%A7avu%C5%9Fo%C4%9Flu-published-in-newsweek-entitled-_fighting-the-enemies-of-democracy-with-democracy_-8-august-2016.en.mfa

http://aa.com.tr/uploads/TempUserFiles/FETO_coup_ENG.pdf

<http://www.dailysabah.com/war-on-terror/2016/08/01/turkey-coup-attempt-of-gulenists-explained-in-special-report>

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/turkish-embassy-in-havana/video-links-from-attempted-coup-detat-against-our-beloved-nation/1060990330650383>

Hoping Telesur will be reviewing its biased policy against Turkey and display solidarity with Turkey to defend its democratic institutions.

May I ask you kindly to forward my letter to the kind attention of the Editorial Board of Telesur in Caracas.

Awaiting your reply, I remain.

Hasan Servet Öktem

Ambassador