



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Andrew Brunson Summary / Timeline

Andrew Brunson is a Teaching Elder in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). He is from Black Mountain, N.C., and is a graduate of Wheaton College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He and his wife, Norine, have three children.

1993

Andrew and Norine Brunson move to Turkey under auspices of World Witness, the board of foreign missions for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

2010

Transferred ordination to EPC and planted Izmir Resurrection Church.

October 7, 2016

Andrew and Norine arrested and sent to a detention facility.

October 19, 2016

Norine released from detention. Andrew continues to be held despite no formal charges.

December 8, 2016 (after being detained for 63 days)

Andrew charged with “membership in an armed terrorist organization” and sent to prison, although the charging documents did not state any evidence against him.

January 3, 2017

Andrew’s 49th birthday.

February 6, 2017

EPC launches “Forgotten American in Turkey” online petition with the White House in Washington, D.C.

February 15, 2017

78 members of U.S. Congress sign letter to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan requesting Andrew’s release.

March 30, 2017

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson meets with Norine in Turkey.



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May 16, 2017

In meetings with Erdoğan in Washington, U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence request Andrew's release.

May 19, 2017

Turkish media reports Andrew is being accused of being a "Kurdish sympathizer" and a "Gülenist."

August 24, 2017

Turkish court adds three new charges, including gathering state secrets for espionage, attempting to overthrow the Turkish parliament and government, and trying to change the constitutional order. Andrew could face up to four consecutive life sentences if convicted.

September 28, 2017

Erdoğan publicly offers swap of Andrew for the extradition of Fethullah Gülen, who has lived in Pennsylvania since 1999 and Erdoğan blames for the failed 2016 coup attempt.

October 7-8, 2017

EPC issues Call to Prayer and Fasting to mark one year of imprisonment.

November 3, 2017

Andrew's song "You are Worthy of My All" (written while in prison) is posted to Andrew and Norine Brunson Facebook page.

November 15, 2017

The Brunson's daughter, Jacqueline Furnari, testifies to the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission.

January 3, 2018

Andrew's 50th birthday.

March 16, 2018

Jacqueline Furnari testifies before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

March 21, 2018

Turkish court accepts 62-page indictment against Andrew and schedules beginning of trial for April 16, 2018.



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March 26, 2018

Senator Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) meets with Andrew in prison.

April 15, 2018

EPC issues Call to Prayer and Fasting ahead of April 16 trial opening.

April 16, 2018

Trial convenes. Following opening testimony, judge deems Andrew a “flight risk” and returns him to prison until next hearing, scheduled for May 7, 2018.

April 16, 2018

U.S. State Department issues statement: “The entire U.S. government is following Mr. Brunson’s case closely. We have seen no credible evidence that Mr. Brunson is guilty of a crime and are convinced that he is innocent. We believe that Turkey is a state bound by the rule of law, and we have faith in the Turkish people’s commitment to justice. We hope that the judicial system in Turkey will resolve his case in a timely, fair, and transparent manner.”

April 26, 2018

In response to Andrew’s continued imprisonment, U.S. Senators James Lankford (R-Okla.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) introduce a bill to prevent the transfer of the Lockheed Martin-made F-35 to Turkey and to block Ankara’s role as a maintenance depot for the aircraft.

May 4, 2018

50 members of the European Parliament sign letter to Turkey’s President, requesting Andrew’s release.

May 5-6, 2018

EPC issues Call to Prayer and Fasting ahead of May 7 scheduled resumption of trial.

May 7, 2018

Trial reconvenes for second session. Judge returns Andrew to prison until next hearing, scheduled for July 18, 2018.

June 29, 2018

U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) discuss Andrew’s situation in a meeting with Turkish President Erdoğan in Ankara.



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July 17, 2018

EPC issues Call to Prayer and Fasting ahead of July 18 scheduled resumption of trial.

July 18, 2018

Trial reconvenes for third session. Judge returns Andrew to prison until next hearing, scheduled for October 12, 2018.

July 18, 2018

United States Commission on International Freedom (USCIRF) issues statement condemning court decision to continue holding Brunson in prison.

July 19, 2018

Senators Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Bill Nelson (D- Fla.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) introduce legislation restrict loans from international financial institutions to Turkey until the Turkish government ends the unjust detention of U.S. citizens.

July 23, 2018

Senators Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and Jeane Shaheen (D-N.H.) announce a provision in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress assessing Turkey's participation in the F-35 fighter jet program.

July 24, 2018

Jacqueline Furnari testifies to the inaugural U.S. State Department's "Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom" in Washington, D.C.

July 25, 2018

Turkish court releases Brunson from prison to house arrest until October 12 hearing.

July 31, 2018

Turkish court rejects appeal to release Andrew from house arrest; Trump administration imposes sanctions on Turkey's Justice Minister and Interior Minister.

August 15, 2018

Turkish court in Izmir rejects second appeal to release Andrew from house arrest.

August 17, 2018

A higher Turkish court upholds lower court ruling to reject second appeal to release Andrew from house arrest.



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October 1, 2018

In an address to Turkey’s parliament, Turkish President Erdoğan accuses the U.S. of using Andrew as a pretext to impose sanctions. Erdoğan describes Andrew as having “dark ties to terror groups.”

October 3, 2018

Andrew’s attorney, İsmail Cem Halavurt, files appeal with Turkey’s highest court, the Turkish Constitutional Court.

October 12, 2018

ANDREW IS RELEASED! Prosecution requests and receives lifting of house arrest and travel ban. Judge issues conviction with sentence of 3 years, 1 month, 15 days and releases Andrew on time served. Andrew and Norine leave Turkey.

October 13, 2018

Andrew and Norine arrive in the United States. They and their family meet with the President, Administration staff, lawmakers, and others in the Oval Office.