

ALLEGATIONS OF RELIGIOUS PRESSURE AT SCHOOL FALSE

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Allegations of religious pressure at school false

Claims four female students changed schools owing to religious pressure at the Amasya Anatolian Girls' Vocational High School's boarding house have been inspected by Parliament's Human Rights Commission and found to be totally unfounded. The four-deputy commission that went to Amasya has issued a report following its inspection, concluding that all claims of religious pressure were far from the truth and that news articles published in some newspapers "twisted the truth." The commission, made up of Justice and Development Party (AK Party) Mersin Deputy Professor Zafer Üskül, AK Party İstanbul deputies Halide İncekara and Mustafa Ataş and AK Party Denizli deputy Mithat Ekici, spoke to approximately 20 students and a number of families of students, as well as teachers, during the inquiry last week. After consulting a total of 40 people, including canteen workers, the commission wrote a report.

The report stated that the events reported by some newspapers aimed at twisting facts and portraying events that took place in a manner inconsistent with the truth and without reference to their real causes. The report also said that the four female students in question and their parents refuted claims that they were pressured, adding that two of the four girls left the school in order to help their families, another left because she did not like the school and the fourth left after enrolling in a regular program at a state high school with the intent to raise her chances of passing the university entrance exam. "There was no violation of human rights and there was no religious pressure involved," the report concluded. **Ankara** Today's Zaman