



Via Email to: [contact@tccb.gov.tr](mailto:contact@tccb.gov.tr)

June 17, 2016

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Cumhurbaşkanı  
(President of the Republic of Turkey)  
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi  
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Your Excellency:

**RE: Concern for Turkish Scholars and Universities**

As an association representing scholars and academic professionals, we are deeply concerned about recent reports of Turkish federal prosecutors placing over 1,128 professors and researchers at 89 Turkish institutions under investigation for signing a “peace petition”. We are even more concerned to learn that some of the signatories have since been arrested and imprisoned for the alleged criminal act of spreading “terrorist propaganda”.

As a member of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, we endorse the *Joint Public Letter in Support of Turkish Higher Education* sent to you on January 21, 2016 and petition for the immediate release of the following academics:

- Esra Mungan, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Boğaziçi University
- Muzaffer Kaya, Assistant Professor of Social Studies, formerly at Nişantaşı University
- Kivanç Ersoy, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts
- Meral Camcı, Assistant Professor of Translation Studies, formerly at Yeni Yüzyıl University

It is our sincere hope that the valuable contribution of Turkish academics to global scholarship and the overall well-being of Turkey’s higher education built on the principles of academic freedom are not eroded by these recent actions.

Signed on behalf the University of Victoria Faculty Association Executive Committee

Helga Kristín Hallgrímsdóttir, President



**cc:**

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