

8 August 2016



His Excellency Selcuk Unal
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Your Excellency:

I am writing on behalf of the Queen's University Faculty Association, representing 1,200 university staff in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. We are extremely concerned about recent reports indicating approximately 15,000 educators have been suspended in your country following the failed coup attempt in July. This figure includes more than 1,500 university deans who have reportedly been forced to resign.

While we fully appreciate that Turkish authorities need to properly investigate and prosecute those responsible for criminal acts, this must be done in a way that abides by the rule of law and respects human rights and civil liberties. The sheer number of arrests and suspensions in recent days is nothing short of alarming, and suggests that purges are now being used to censor anyone, including academics, who is critical of the government.

We respectfully urge Turkish authorities to exercise restraint, observe the rule of law, and fully uphold the civil liberties and academic freedom of educators. Those teachers and academics who have been suspended or were forced to resign should be immediately reinstated.

Sincerely,

Lynne Hanson
President

cc: Hon. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada (stephane.dion@parl.gc.ca)