



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

 [www.caut.ca](http://www.caut.ca)  
[acppu@caut.ca](mailto:acppu@caut.ca)

2705, promenade Queensview Drive  
Ottawa (Ontario) K2B 8K2

Tel\Tél. 613-820-2270  
Fax\Télé. 613-820-7244

January 18, 2016

Ambassador Selcuk Unal  
Turkish Embassy in Ottawa  
197 Wurtemberg Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8L9

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the 68,000 members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, we are writing to express our grave concerns about the infringement of academic freedom and civil liberties in Turkey.

According to information we have received, Turkish authorities have initiated investigations against nearly 1,200 academics throughout Turkey for signing a Peace Declaration on January 10, 2016. The Declaration called for renewed efforts to end the violence between government forces and Kurdish separatists.

The action taken against the signatories of the Peace Declaration represents an unacceptable attack on academic freedom and freedom of expression. We remind you that the *1997 UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel* guarantees academics freedom of teaching and discussion, no matter how controversial, as well as freedom of expression, assembly and association without reprisal or penalty.

We respectfully call upon your government to fully respect civil liberties and academic freedom by immediately ceasing its investigation against the academics in question. We look forward to hearing from you on the resolution of this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Vose'.

Robin Vose  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Robinson'.

David Robinson  
Executive Director

/mmp

cc: Hon. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada