



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

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July 20, 2016

His Excellency Selcuk Unal  
Ambassador of Turkey to Canada  
Embassy of Turkey  
197 Wurtemberg Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 8L9

By Email: [embassy.ottawa@mfa.gov.tr](mailto:embassy.ottawa@mfa.gov.tr)

Your Excellency:

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, representing nearly 68,000 university and college academic staff. We are extremely concerned about recent reports indicating approximately 15,000 educators have been suspended in your country following last week's failed coup attempt. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Robinson  
Executive Director

/mc

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