



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

September 28, 2020

**By email:** [contact@tccb.gov.tr](mailto:contact@tccb.gov.tr)

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
President of the Republic of Turkey  
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi  
06560 Beştepe / Ankara  
Turkey

**Subject: Immediate and safe release of Cihan Erdal**

Excellency:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 72,000 members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) to express deep concern regarding the detention of Mr. Cihan Erdal and to demand his immediate release and safe return to Canada.

CAUT has been informed that Mr. Erdal, a youth activist, scholar, and permanent resident of Canada, was detained in Istanbul on September 25, 2020 along with 81 other academics, politicians, and activists. We have also been informed that Mr. Erdal's lawyer, while permitted to visit Mr. Erdal at the detention centre, has not been allowed to see the specifics of the detention case file.

CAUT condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the actions taken against Mr. Erdal, who is a member of Canada's academic community as a doctoral student and coordinator of the Centre for Urban Youth Research at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Mr. Erdal is likely being targeted for events dating to 2014 in which he, along with the other 81 individuals who were detained, was a signatory to a letter calling for the Turkish government to step in to protect a Kurdish town from ISIS attacks.

CAUT is therefore calling on your government to immediately drop all charges against Mr. Erdal and the other 81 academics, politicians, and activists, and ensure Mr. Erdal's safe release from detention and return to Canada. We await a commitment to Mr. Erdal's release and will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Yours sincerely,

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

David Robinson  
Executive Director

c.c. Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs  
[Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca)

c.c. Jamal Khokhar, Ambassador of Canada to Turkey, [ANKRA@international.gc.ca](mailto:ANKRA@international.gc.ca)