

Ambassador Kaya Türkmen
Turkish Embassy
Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 20
115 27 Stockholm
embassy.stockholm@mfa.gov.tr

Dear Mr Ambassador,

Saco is the Swedish confederation of Professional Associations, representing more than 650.000 university graduates in Sweden. The Swedish Association of University Teachers is an affiliate of Saco, representing more than 20.000 Swedish academics.

It has been brought to our attention that the prosecutor of Istanbul has initiated investigations against more than a thousand academics throughout Turkey for signing a petition that calls for immediate end to violence in Kurdish areas, on the account of treason and support of terrorism. There have also been reports of numerous Turkish academics being forced to resign and/or being taken under custody for having signed the petition.

Although the petition criticizes the Turkish government, we find nothing in it that advocates violence or any form of terrorism. Freedom of opinion and expression is a fundamental human right. It is vital for any democracy to withstand criticism without oppressing those who voice it.

We protest against the Turkish investigations of the signatories, and demand that all harassment related to the signing of the petition cease immediately.

Yours sincerely,



Göran Arrius
president
The Swedish Confederation of
Professional Associations



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president
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