



**LOCAL 2865**

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Ambassador Serdar Kılıç  
2525 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Kılıç,

We, the Joint Council of United Auto Workers Local 2865, the Union for Teaching Assistants, Tutors, and Readers in the University of California school system (which represents over 14,000 students), express our solidarity with our fellow academics in Turkey. We are concerned about their safety and ability to exercise their academic freedom, an essential component of any democracy.

As we are sure you are aware, many of our Turkish colleagues recently signed a petition in support of the Kurdish peoples in Turkey, calling on the government to end its violent attacks. In response, an “investigation” was launched and many academics were detained, and President Erdogan has been stoking a climate of resentment of academics among his supporters that many fear will lead to retaliatory attacks. The government is clearly engaging in a program to suppress academic freedom and freedom of expression, one which we fear will become increasingly violent.

We call on the government of Turkey to end these attacks on academic freedom, first by ending its “investigation,” releasing detainees, and allowing their freedom of movement. We ask that officials publicly call for calm and commit to respecting academic freedom. Finally, we call on the government to take measures to protect those academics who are in danger, especially those most in danger in Eastern Turkey.

Many of us have the privilege of working with academics from Turkey, and we wish to continue doing so in a manner that benefits both of our countries, in a climate free of fear and oppression.

We look forward to hearing from you about this urgent matter.

Sincerely,  
The Joint Council of UAW 2865