

Open Letter in Support for Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom in Turkey

January 27th 2016

Dear General Ertan Yalçın and Representative Halit Çevik,

We the Graduate Student Organizing Committee of the United Auto Workers Local 2110, which represents over 2,000 students, express our solidarity with our fellow academics in Turkey who have faced detention and state repression in recent weeks. Many of our Turkish colleagues recently signed a petition calling on the government to end its sieges on Kurdish-majority regions of Turkey. In response, many of these academics were detained, and Erdoğan has been issuing public statements demeaning academics.

These actions constitute an effort to suppress freedom of expression in the country, for academics and non-academics alike, posing a threat to the future of meaningful democracy in Turkey. We call for an end to the “investigation” of the signers of the petition, the release of all detainees, and a guarantee to their continued freedom of movement and expression.

Many of us enjoy close ties with our academic colleagues from Turkey, and we hope to continue our shared work free from state repression.

We await your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

The Graduate Student Organizing Committee of NYU Assembly of Stewards

GSOC-UAW Local 2110

Statement ratified by the GSOC-UAW-Local 2110 Assembly of Stewards



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