

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK OF ACADEMIES AND SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

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The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (H.R. Network) supports and defends the fundamental human rights of fellow academics worldwide. We, the members of the H.R. Network's Executive Committee, have repeatedly expressed our concern regarding repressive measures taken against academic colleagues in Turkey. We did so in January of this year, following the harassment and intimidation of Turkish colleagues who signed a public petition expressing concerns about the humanitarian crisis in southeastern Turkey, and again in July of this year, following widespread suspensions and forced resignations of scholars following the attempted coup.

We are alarmed about the increasingly difficult situation facing academics in Turkey. On September 1, pursuant to a Turkish cabinet decree, more than 40 academics who signed the above-mentioned petition have been deemed supporters of terrorism, dismissed from their positions, and permanently banned from public service, together with over 2,000 academic personnel and tens of thousands of other public service employees. Reportedly, this decision is not subject to appeal, and the passports of the individuals concerned are to be revoked.

Banning individuals from public service for life and revoking their travel documents without due process is inconsistent with Turkey's obligations under international law and inimical to the principle of academic freedom. We strongly urge the government of Turkey to ensure that all scholars who have been removed from their positions solely as a result of having peacefully exercised internationally protected rights are reinstated without delay and that no punitive measures are taken without procedural protections for the individuals concerned.

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and the authors of the H.R. Network's 2013 Report, "Scientists, Engineers, and Medical Doctors in Turkey"

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Academies in the Network support and promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, assist unjustly incarcerated nonviolent professional colleagues, address grave science-related human rights issues, and advocate for member institutions whose independence is threatened.

(The U.S. National Academies, non-profit, non-governmental honorary societies, host the Network secretariat.)

www.nas.edu.hnetwork