



24 July 2019

The Honorable Judges of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkey
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Your Honors,

We are writing on behalf of the premier academic associations in the United States in the social sciences and humanities to express our support for the right of scholars and academics to sign the Academics for Peace Petition. Several of our associations include members who are signatories of the petition and we have been following closely the course of the criminal cases that have been filed against signatories in various courts in Turkey over the last two years.

We appreciate your court's decision to prioritize the appeals in these cases. We have noted with great interest recent developments in Turkish courts and were heartened by some of your court's recent rulings upholding protections for freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, such as in the cases of Ayşe Çelik (decided on 9 May 2019, case number 2017/36722) and Deniz Yücel (decided on 28 May 2019, case number 2017/16589). We hope that your court's judgments in cases involving academic freedom and freedom of speech protections for scholars will also exemplify a commitment to the rule of law above political considerations.

We urge you to demonstrate your commitment to the rule of law and the international agreements of which Turkey is a signatory and which protect the freedom of expression and assembly and academic freedom as you consider the cases of the Peace Petition signatories on 26 July 2019.

Yours sincerely,

American Academy of Religion
American Anthropological Association
American Dialect Society
American Folklore Society
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Sociological Association
Association for Asian Studies
Association of College & Research Libraries

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International Society for Third Sector Research
Latin American Studies Association
The Medieval Academy of America
Middle East Studies Association
Modern Language Association
National Communication Association
National Council on Public History
Oral History Association
Organization of American Historians
The Rhetoric Society of America
Shakespeare Association of America
Sixteenth Century Society & Conference
Society for Ethnomusicology
Society of Architectural Historians
Society of Biblical Literature
World History Association