



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

Head Office

5, Bd du Roi Albert II
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 224 06 11
Fax +32 2 224 06 06
headoffice@ei-ie.org
<http://www.ei-ie.org>

President

Susan Hopgood

General Secretary

Fred van Leeuwen

Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

President of the Republic of Turkey
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi
06560 Beştepe / Ankara
Turkey

Email: contact@tccb.gov.tr

Fax: (+90) 312 525 58 31

Brussels, 8 September 2016

Re: Large scale violation of Turkish education employees' rights

Dear President,

Education International (EI), the global union federation of teachers, and its European regional organisation, the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), wish to express deep concerns regarding the ongoing 'witch-hunt' targeting education employees in Turkey, in the aftermath of the July 15 coup attempt.

On 1 September 2016, the latest state of emergency decree removed tens of thousands of education employees from their positions, including members of the education union EGİTİM SEN, EI's affiliate in Turkey. Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım also announced that thousands of teachers from the South East will be investigated or dismissed for alleged connections with terrorism.

The large-scale punitive measures taken by the Turkish government against its own citizens, and particularly against the education community, is a blatant violation of fundamental human rights. As a government wishing to cultivate a democratic, open-minded and sustainable society, the Turkish authorities must observe the rule of law and uphold the democratic values of Turkish society.

We remind your government that Turkey has ratified a number of international conventions foreseeing the protection and guaranteeing the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms of people, such as freedom of expression and speech and academic freedom.

EI/ETUCE therefore urge Turkish authorities to immediately reverse the unlawful actions taken against the education community, and to respect the international standards protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of all educators, education support staff and public employees generally.

EI/ETUCE and the teaching community worldwide strongly support and stand with their Turkish colleagues. We will consider taking further action should the Turkish authorities continue this persecution against Turkish education employees.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary