27 July 2016

His Excellency
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey

Your Excellency:

As the democratically elected government of Turkey restores order and peace after overcoming the failed illegal coup, the undersigned scientific societies sincerely hope that the human rights of the scientific community are protected. In a globalized world, the future prosperity and security of any nation depends on its ability to be a knowledge-based, innovative society and to a considerable extent on the work of its scientists, engineers, academics, and researchers. Turkey has made great progress over the past decade in greatly strengthening its scientific and academic institutions, which are essential for training the next generation and stimulating new innovations that benefit society. Sustaining a high-quality scientific enterprise requires that scientists have freedom to think independently and innovatively and are able, with minimal hinderances, to engage with scientists around the world, including traveling and collaborating in research outside Turkey, in pursuit of excellence in their scientific investigations. The government of Turkey has stated that “democracy, freedom, and the rule of law are nonnegotiable in Turkey.” We hope that in the pursuit of justice the government will follow through on this pledge to fully respect human rights, the rule of law, and due process and thereby protect its citizens and its scientific community.

Sincerely,

Rush D. Holt
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Publisher, Science
American Association for the Advancement of Science

Edward Liebow
Executive Director
American Anthropological Association
Douglas Richardson  
Executive Director  
American Association of Geographers

Kate P. Kirby  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Physical Society

Sally Hillsman  
Executive Officer  
American Sociological Association

Ronald L. Wasserstein  
Executive Director  
American Statistical Association

John Nemeth  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, Inc.
Susan Dudley
Executive Director
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues