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Physical
Society

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February 9, 2016

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey
T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Genel Sekreterliği
06689 Çankaya, Ankara
Turkey

Dear President Erdoğan,

The American Physical Society (APS), an organization of professional physicists with over 51,000 members worldwide, views with concern the recent events in Turkey involving the detention and interrogation of signatories of the “We will not be a Party to This Crime” petition, as well as the reports of administrative and criminal investigations of the more than 1,000 signatories. APS takes no stand on the issues addressed in the petition. But we strongly defend the right of free expression for all scholars and researchers. Signing such a petition must not be a ground for legal proceedings against a signatory or for dismissal from one’s position. We ask that relevant authorities in Turkey cease immediately all administrative and criminal proceedings against these individuals.

We care both about threats to affected individuals and about the standing of the Turkish academic and scientific community in the eyes of the rest of the world. Should harm come to the signatories, the damage to Turkey’s standing in the world scientific and academic community could be significant and long lasting.

Through its Committee on International Freedom of Scientists, APS will continue to monitor the situation in Turkey, paying special, but not exclusive, attention to physicists who have signed the petition.

Sincerely,

Homer Neal
APS President

Cc: Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoğlu
Minister of Justice, Bekir Bozdağ