

**Robert L. Bryant, President**  
president@ams.org

September 14, 2016

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
President of the Republic of Turkey  
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi 06560  
Beştepe-Ankara  
Turkey

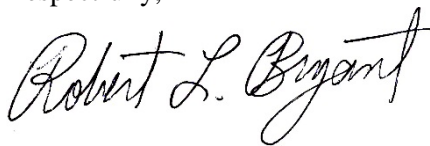
Dear President Erdoğan:

I, along with the American Mathematical Society's Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians, write to you to express our grave concerns about recent actions taken by the government of Turkey against members of the scientific community.

According to reports we have read, the government has retaliated against some academics who signed the Peace Petition prior to the coup attempt in your nation during July, 2016. Most recently, we read that on September 1, 2016, a cabinet decree of your government used the State of Emergency rule to ban 44 academic signatories, who were deemed "supporters of terrorism." Furthermore, we have read some reports that nearly 3,000 academics have been purged from the university system through the Council of Higher Education.

Intellectual freedom and freedom of movement and expression are non-negotiable elements of an open and democratic society. We urge the government of Turkey to protect the freedom of its citizens, to cease retaliation against its peaceful critics, and to reinstate the faculty who have been banned or purged.

Respectfully,



Robert L. Bryant  
President of the American Mathematical Society and  
Phillip Griffiths Professor of Mathematics, Duke University

and the members of the AMS Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians:

- Roya Beheshti, Washington University-St. Louis, Department of Mathematics
- Raul Curto, University of Iowa, Department of Mathematics
- Moon Duchin, Tufts University, Department of Mathematics
- David Johnson, Lehigh University, Department of Mathematics
- Melvyn Nathanson, Herbert H. Lehman College, Department of Mathematics & Computer Science
- Ashish Srivastava, Saint Louis University, Department of Mathematics & Computer Science
- A. Shadi Tahvildar-Zadeh, Rutgers University, Department of Mathematics
- Chad Topaz, Macalester College, Department of Mathematics, Statistics, & Computer Science
- Joseph Watkins, University of Arizona, Department of Mathematics

/sjr

cc: Bekir Bozdađ, Justice Minister of the Republic of Turkey  
İsmail Kahraman, President of the Turkish National Grand Assembly  
Serdar Kılıç, Turkish Ambassador to the United States  
Yekta Saraç, President of the Council of Higher Education  
Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, Office of the Prime Minister, Republic of Turkey  
İsmet Yılmaz, Minister of National Education, The Grand National Assembly of Turkey