

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

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Association of College & Research Libraries  
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
International Center of Medieval Art  
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