



**Canadian Mathematical Society
Société mathématique du Canada**

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October 12, 2016

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

Dear President Erdoğan:

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Mathematical Society to express our deep concern about the recent treatment of some academic staff at Turkish universities, and the effect on academic freedom in Turkey.

We are particularly alarmed by your government's cabinet decree of September 1, made within the context of the state of emergency rule, which bans from public service over 40 academics who had signed a peace petition in January.

We have also seen reports of earlier retaliations against other signatories, including dismissal and imprisonment.

We regard these actions against professors who are publicly expressing their political views as serious violations of the intellectual freedoms that are fundamental to any university system.

We urge the government of Turkey to reinstate the dismissed faculty, and to ensure the future civil liberties, job security, and personal safety of all Turkish academics.

Respectfully yours,

Michael Bennett
President of the Canadian Mathematical Society
Professor of Mathematics, University of British Columbia

and the members of the CMS Executive Committee:

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