



**University and College Union**

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Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Başbakanlık  
06573 Ankara  
TURKEY

Dear Prime Minister Yıldırım

On behalf of the 110,000 members of the University and College Union (UCU), I am writing to you to express our dismay at the latest mass firings of academic staff in Turkish universities.

We are very concerned that the State of Emergency decree on 1 September has resulted in the dismissal of 2346 academic staff from 94 universities across Turkey. This is on top of the closure of 15 private universities in late July and the ongoing investigations by the Turkish Council of Higher Education into the academic signatories of the Peace Petition. The latest dismissals occurred without due process of law and represent a mass removal of academics, including 41 of the Peace Petition signatories, without any evidence of a connection to the attempted military coup.

UCU calls on the Turkish authorities to immediately reinstate our colleagues and ensure their employee rights are fully restored. We also reiterate our call for the Council of Higher Education to drop its investigations into the signatories of the Peace Petition.

We look forward to hearing from you on these important matters.

Yours sincerely

Sally Hunt  
General Secretary