

**Public Statement**  
**of the Presidents and Chairs of Professional Associations on**  
**“International Studies”**  
**regarding the Persecution of Academics in Turkey**

18 January 2016 (amended as of 22 January 2016)

As leaders of associations that represent academics and analysts of international studies, we are deeply concerned about the [reaction of the Turkish government](#) and police to the [public statement signed by Turkish and international academics](#) on the situation in Southeastern Turkey last week. While we condemn any form of political violence, we insist that academics must have the right to express their political views freely and without having to fear for their jobs or personal freedom.

We call upon the Turkish authorities to stop the persecution of our colleagues and ask university administrations to respect the right to free speech and academic freedom. Turkey is an important partner in our joint efforts to better understand how “a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world” can be realized – a key aim of the “[Alliance of Civilizations](#)” which President Erdogan has co-sponsored. Free academic debate is an essential prerequisite to foster such understanding. We hope that it can continue to flourish in Turkish universities as well.

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