



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale

Brussels, 29 July, 2016

Head Office

5, Bd du Roi Albert II
1210 Brussels, Belgium
Tel +32 2 224 06 11
Fax +32 2 224 06 06
headoffice@ei-ie.org
http://www.ei-ie.org

Executive Board

President

Susan Hopgood, [Australia](#)

Vice Presidents

Lily Eskelsen, [USA](#)
Roberto Franklin de Leão, [Brazil](#)
Mugwena Maluleke, [South Africa](#)
Yasunaga Okamoto, [Japan](#)
Marlis Tepe, [Germany](#)

General Secretary

Fred van Leeuwen, [Netherlands](#)

Members

Sonia Alesso, [Argentina](#)
Johanna Jaara Åstrand, [Sweden](#)
Okju Bak, [Korea](#)
Sławomir Broniarz, [Poland](#)
Francisca L. Castro, [Philippines](#)
Juan Díaz de la Torre, [Mexico](#)
Laurent Escure, [France](#)
Luis A. Grubert Ibarra, [Colombia](#)
Steffen Handal, [Norway](#)
Daniel B. Lafrenière, [Canada](#)
Manuela Mendonça, [Portugal](#)
Michael Olukoya Alogba, [Nigeria](#)
Patrick Roach, [United Kingdom](#)
Marième Sakho Dansokho, [Senegal](#)
Davanand Sinanan, [Trinidad & Tobago](#)
Ram Pal Singh, [India](#)
James Tweheyo, [Uganda](#)
Diane Woloschuk, [Canada](#)
Randi Weingarten, [USA](#)

Dear Colleagues,

We must fight for the rights of our persecuted Turkish colleagues

As we have witnessed over the past week it has become abundantly clear that the actions of the Turkish Government have gone far beyond any reasonable response to the attempted coup.

We have learned from Education International's Turkish affiliate, EGITIM-SEN, the extent to which the education sector has been unjustly punished by authorities. In addition to the 15,200 education worker suspensions, another 6,538 have since met the same fate. And on top of the dismissal of 21,000 private school teachers, more than a thousand private schools have been closed.

These actions are unacceptable.

We must express our collective voice loud and clear in protest, which is why, in addition to a letter addressed to President Erdoğan of Turkey, Education International and Public Services International (PSI) have jointly written UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Together, EI and PSI have urged the Secretary General to increase pressure on the Turkish Government to demand that it observes human rights law and international conventions of which it is a signatory to.

We once again encourage all Education International affiliates to denounce this education 'purge' by writing directly to the [Turkish Government](#), the [EU delegation in Turkey](#), the [Turkish Council of Higher Education](#), your Turkish Embassies or your government to demand they cease and desist these unlawful actions toward education and public sector employees.

Additionally, we ask you to send a message of solidarity to our [EGITIM-SEN colleagues](#) who need our support during this trying time.

Yours sincerely,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary

