



Akademiet for yngre forskere
The Young Academy of Norway



ACADEMIC FREEDOM UNDER PRESSURE IN TURKEY

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA), The Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters (DKNVS), Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences (NTVA), and The Young Academy of Norway (AFYF) condemn the attempted coup d'état in Turkey.

However, it is alarming that the Turkish government has demanded the resignation of more than 1500 deans, cancelled thousands of licenses of teachers, implemented a travel ban and called back Turkish academics from abroad. These measures are in clear conflict with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), depriving academics and researchers of their fundamental rights, particularly the right to freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom of assembly as well as the right to exercise their profession without politically or ideologically motivated constraints. Academic freedom is one of the most important building blocks of a modern democracy.

We urge the Turkish government and the Higher Educational Council (HEC) to stand by the ratification of the ECHR.

Oslo and Trondheim July 29, 2016

On behalf of the Academies,

Ole M. Sejersted
President
The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters