



Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi

The Norwegian Academy
of Science and Letters

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of Turkey
T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi 06560 Beştepe
Ankara, Turkey

Your Excellency,

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has a long tradition of learning and of promoting academic freedom. As members of this Academy, we firmly believe that universities need to be autonomous in order to further innovative research and ensure the freedom of the researcher.

Since a university's intellectual and moral autonomy is crucially important, we are deeply concerned with the appointment of a President (rector) of Boğaziçi University without any consultation with the university bodies. We are also worried about the police arrests of many students who have protested against this appointment, charging several of them with disproportionate crimes such as terrorism.

We sincerely hope that, on reflection, you will revoke the appointment of Prof. Dr. Melih Bulu as rector of Boğaziçi University, thus reaffirming your support of an honoured institution whose members can profit from, and be inspired by, academic freedom and freedom of research.

Hans Petter Graver
President of the Norwegian Academy
of Science and Letters

Jakob Lothe
Leader of the Committee on
Human Rights, The Norwegian
Academy of Science and Letters