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DVMLG

Deutsche Vereinigung für Mathematische Logik und
für Grundlagenforschung der Exakten Wissenschaften

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The Rt Hon. Ahmet Davutoğlu
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Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Başbakanlık
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cc: Martin Erdmann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Turkey, Deutsche Botschaft in Ankara, Atatürk Bulvarı 114, 06690 Kavaklıdere, Ankara

20 April 2016

Excellency:

On behalf of the German mathematical society (*Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung*), the German geoscientific societies (*Dachverband Geowissenschaften*), and the German society for mathematical logic and philosophy of science (*Deutsche Vereinigung für Mathematische Logik und für Grundlagenforschung der Exakten Wissenschaften*), we are signing this open letter to express our deepest concerns regarding reports of punitive measures, including detentions and criminal investigations, launched against Turkish academics who signed a petition addressing Turkish government policies in southeastern Turkey.

The nonviolent exercise of academic freedom and free expression are both recognized under international standards such as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Dismissals, detentions, and criminal investigations as retaliation against scholars for this exercise of academic freedom are therefore in violation with these international standards. The *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*, both of which Turkey has ratified, similarly require the government to uphold citizens' freedom of expression, as does Turkey's own constitution.

We respectfully urge the Government of Turkey to take all steps to fulfill its duties to protect free expression and academic freedom by ending all measures to penalize signatories of the petition. We also urge the government to ensure signatories are protected against public threats of bodily harm that have been made against them.

Prof. Dr. Volker Bach
(President of DMV)

Prof. Dr. Martin Meschede
(President of DVGeo)

Prof. Dr. Benedikt Löwe
(President of DVMLG)