



Academic Freedoms, Reason, Science and Merit

Due to the heinous coup attempt of July 15, 2016 in Turkey, the academic community, just like the entire country, is undergoing an extremely difficult period. This coup targeted the democracy and rule of law in Turkey. The Turkish Republic needs to overcome this challenge by especially strengthening its democracy and the rule of law. Declaring entire professions guilty through sweeping accusations based on unfounded denunciations, by stretching the definitions of felonies in the absence of concrete evidence, will lead to results which will be impossible to remedy in the future. The measures to be taken in universities must focus on reinforcing and securing academic freedoms and institutional autonomy. While re-establishing the legal order, the specific rules of academic institutions, their traditions and ethical practices should be observed without delay. The recent revelations have also shown forcefully that the strength of any democratic order depends on the regulation of its social affairs, and especially its educational system from pre-school up to the university level, based only on reason, scientific insights and merit.

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