



Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des associations des professeurs des universités de l'Ontario

September 30, 2020

By email: contact@tccb.gov.tr

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey
Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi
06560 Beştepe / Ankara
Turkey

Subject: Release of Cihan Erdal

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations which represents 17,000 professors, contract faculty, and academic librarians at every university in Ontario. We are deeply concerned about the detention of Mr. Cihan Erdal and join our colleagues at the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) in demanding his immediate release and safe return to Canada.

We have learned that Mr. Erdal, a youth activist, scholar, and permanent resident of Canada, was detained in Istanbul on September 25, 2020 along with 81 other academics, politicians, and activists. We have also been informed that Mr. Erdal's lawyer, while permitted to visit Mr. Erdal at the detention centre, has not been allowed to see the specifics of the detention case file.

OCUFA condemns the detention of Mr. Erdal, who is a member of Ontario's academic community as a doctoral student and coordinator of the Centre for Urban Youth Research at Carleton University in Ottawa.

We call on your government to immediately drop all charges against Mr. Erdal and the other academics, politicians, and activists who were arrested on September 25, and to ensure Mr. Erdal's safe release from detention and return to Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Rahul Sapra,
President of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations

c.c. Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs,
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c.c. Jamal Khokhar, Ambassador of Canada to Turkey,
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