



May 31, 2005

Mr. Ahmet Necdet Sezer
President of the Republic of Turkey
Ankara, Turkey

VIA FACSIMILE: +90 312 417 71 13

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our concern about the Turkish Supreme Court's decision to support the efforts of Ankara's Attorney General to close down the Turkish teachers' union, Egitim Sen, because of the union's defense of the right of all Turkish students to an education in their mother tongue.

We view this action as unacceptable and believe it will raise serious obstacles to Turkey's desire to play a larger role in international affairs.

The Supreme Court's decision destroys the rights of Turkish teachers to organize and take a public position on matters of great importance. We join with our colleagues in Education International to strongly protest this decision and will inform the American government of our deep concern about this effort to destroy Egitim Sen and the democratic rights of Turkey's teachers to a union.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

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American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
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