



May 31, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, I am writing to ask that the US government strongly protest the decision of the Turkish Supreme Court to close down Egitim Sen, the Turkish teachers' union. The union is being destroyed because it supports the right of children to be educated in their mother tongue.

At a time when Turkey is seeking a greater role in world affairs, including membership in the European Union, this action should not be allowed to go unchallenged. I urge you to let the government of Turkey know that the destruction of Egitim Sen will be viewed unfavorably by the United States and other democracies.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy  
President

EJM : dh opeiu#2 afl-cio

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

---

AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

---

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202/879-4400  
www.aft.org

---

Edward J. McElroy  
PRESIDENT

Nat LaCour  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Antonia Cortese  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

---

VICE PRESIDENTS

Roger Benson  
Mary Bergan  
Barbara Bowen  
Kathy Chavez  
John Cole  
Paul F. Cole  
Edward Doherty  
Kathleen M. Donahue  
James F. Dougherty  
Andy Ford  
Janna K. Garrison  
David Gray  
David Hecker  
Thomas Y. Hobart, Jr.  
Richard Iannuzzi  
Sandra C. Irons  
Loretta Johnson  
Ted Kirsch  
Alan Lubin  
Herb Magidson  
Louis Malfaro  
Jim McGarvey  
Tom Mooney  
Maria Neira  
Ruby Newbold  
Candice Owley  
Maria Portalatin  
Marcia B. Reback  
Laura K. Rico  
Pat Santeramo  
Judy Schaubach  
William Scheuerman  
Sandra Schroeder  
Marilyn Stewart  
Louise A. Sundin  
Ivan Tiger  
Ann Twomey  
Adam Urbanski  
Randi Weingarten

