

**Basler Frauenvereinigung für Frieden und Fortschritt
Frauen für den Frieden, Schweiz
FriedensFrauen Weltweit
GSOA Schweiz
Robert-Grimm-Gesellschaft
Schweizerischer Friedensrat
WILPF Schweiz**

**Letter to President of Turkey Recep Tayyip
Erdoğan**

Zürich, 20. Juni 2016

FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY!

Dear Mr. President

We are alarmed about the present developments in Turkey. Democracy and human rights are violated, not only in the Kurdish areas. Freedom of the press and assembly are no longer guaranteed, curfews are imposed. Elected members of Parliament are supposed to have their immunity removed in order to be prosecuted. The peace process in the Kurdish region has collapsed. Arbitrary action and violence are proliferating.

We call for an immediate end of political prosecutions of elected members of the Parliament in Turkey. We demand to renounce amending the law on Parliamentary immunity and to protect all members of Parliament in execution of their mandate.

We demand the release of the political prisoners.

We demand to end the violence and to resume the peace process between the Turkish state and the Kurds; they ought to sit down at the table and join forces to search for solutions, as it was initiated already in 2013. We support all groups committed for peaceful negotiations.

We are concerned to note that the situation of women is constantly deteriorating: after the positive developments in the last decades, the women in Turkey are again reduced to work in the house and in the kitchen as well as bearing children. We demand the equality of all women.

Turkey needs a new constitution granting all minorities and population groups the right to one's own language and culture.

We demand that Switzerland suspend its «strategic partnership» with Turkey until clear signs of progress towards peace can be identified.

However, Switzerland should commit itself increasingly for peace promotion and for human rights.

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The civil society relationship between Switzerland and Turkey needs to be strengthened by the people of both countries who are standing up for peace and democracy. Together we can make a big difference. Together against war.

Swiss Organisations for Peace, Zurich 20. June 2016

This message will also be send today to the Swiss Federal Council and media.

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