

Resolution in support of Turkish scholars and press representatives

The Society for Media Studies (Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft) representing approximately 1,400 members of the media studies academia in Germany, Austria and Switzerland is deeply concerned about the current situation in Turkey's higher education institutions and in the Turkish press. On the occasion of its annual convention that took place 28.9. – 1.10.2016 in Berlin, it has thus unanimously adopted the following resolution in support of its colleagues:

As Society for Media Studies (Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft) we maintain manifold relations with Turkish colleagues and Turkish institutions. We are concerned about the extensive actions taken against scientists and journalists in Turkey who are affected by suspensions, dismissals, prosecutions and disciplinary actions on a massive scale in the course of the emergency of state imposed after the suppression of the coup attempt on 15 July 2016.

In a democratic society, the sectors mass media and higher education bear a special responsibility for the knowledge of society and culture. This includes news reporting, investigative journalism and the enabling of formation of political opinion, besides the critical questioning of the presence as well as the research on and mediation of alternative views of the world. Freedom of expression, freedom of speech and critical independent thinking are thus the basic requirements for academic research and mass media coverage in a democratic society.

Neither the signing of an appeal for peace, nor the discomfoting reporting from the crisis areas legitimize the dismissals, arrests and persecutions carried out – on a massive scale and without a possibility of legal revision – against members of the press and of the higher education institutions.

We therefore, in solidarity with our colleagues in Turkey and in the interest of the academic freedom as well as the freedom of the press, appeal to President Erdoğan and Prime Minister Yıldırım to respect the independence of science and the press, to reverse

**Gesellschaft für
Medienwissenschaft e.V.**

c/o Prof. Dr. Matthias Christen
Medienwissenschaft
Universität Bayreuth
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 3
95445 Bayreuth

www.gfmedienwissenschaft.de
info@gfmedienwissenschaft.de

Kontoverbindung
Hamburger Sparkasse
BLZ 200 505 50
Konto-Nr. 1238117582

the dismissals and persecutions of the members and scientific institutions and the mass media and to ensure the compliance with the fundamental principles of the rule of law!

Prof. Dr. Matthias Christen, 1. Chairman of the Society for Media Studies (Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft) in the name of the society and its board