

April 9, 2025

Kemal Irmak
President
Education and Science Workers' Union of Turkey (EGITIM-SEN)
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Cankaya
Ankara, Türkiye
Email: international@egitimsen.org.tr

Dear Mr. President:

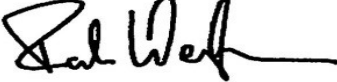
On behalf of the 1.8 million members of the AFT, I extend our solidarity to you and the educators of Eğitim-Sen who have taken to the streets to defend democracy, human rights and public education in Turkey.

We have watched with concern as the space for democratic expression and civil liberties continues to shrink, while in response hundreds of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators have come out to show support for opposition politician Ekrem Imamoglu.

The wide participation of your members in these demonstrations—peacefully standing against antidemocratic repression—is an inspiration to educators and unionists around the world.

The AFT stands with you. Democracy cannot survive without a free and empowered citizenry. We condemn all efforts to intimidate or punish citizens for speaking out. We call on the government to respect the fundamental democratic rights of free speech and assembly for all.

In solidarity,



Randi Weingarten
President

RW : cs opeiu#2 afl-cio

cc: Education International

AFT, AFL-CIO

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AFT PSRP
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AFT Public Employees
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