

Dear ISPP members:

As you may be aware, ISPP has been closely following the situation in Turkey for some time now. We are deeply concerned by the persecution by the Turkish government of our colleagues in Turkish universities who signed the 'Peace petition' in 2016. We regard the dismissals by executive decree, without due process and legal recourse, and the decision to bring academics to trial as profound violations of academic freedom. Last week, one of our members went to trial and is charged with 'terrorist propaganda'. If found guilty she faces over seven years in prison. For signing a petition.

ISPP drafted a statement of support

[http://www.ispp.org/uploads/attachments/Turkey_Stmt_Feb_2018.pdf] and several sister societies have already joined us signing this statement: European Association of Social Psychology (EASP); Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI); British Psychological Society (BPS), Social Psychology Section; Association pour la Diffusion de la Recherche Internationale en Psychologie Sociale (ADRIPS).

ISPP is committed to keeping colleagues from Turkey connected to the international community of political psychologists.

You can help by donating to the ISPP Scholars under Threat fund through this link [https://ispp.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/donations/donationssite/ExtraContent/ContentPage?page=3], when renewing your membership, or when registering for the San Antonio ISPP conference. ISPP will match any contribution, up to \$40,000 USD until June 30, 2018.

The funds will be used to support colleagues in Turkey. Guidelines for applications will be posted shortly on the ISPP website. All requests will be kept confidential.

Moreover, a delegation including two ISPP Governing Council members, Dave Redlawsk and Masi Noor, went to Istanbul last week to observe the trial of our member and to meet with local colleagues. According to the lawyer of our member on trial, having international observers in the courtroom makes a difference. Also the colleagues in Turkey immensely appreciated the gesture of solidarity, stressing the importance in terms of boosting morale. They have directly asked us to provide observers for the ongoing trial process.

Additional information can be found in a BBC report

<u>http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09pjgs1</u> and in a report by Steve Reicher who coordinated the delegation <u>https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/when-there-are-</u> <u>people-who-are-watching-it-makes-difference</u>. More accounts and press coverage will be added to the ISPP website and ISPPNews.

You will receive more information about ISPP actions in Turkey through ISPPNews as well as the ISPP website during this spring.

Please get in touch via info@ispp.org if you wish to participate.

Sincerely,

Eva G.T. Green ISPP President

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