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M. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister
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Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the Swedish Union Vision I write to you to condemn the use of brutal and excessive violence by government security forces against people peacefully exercising their rights of freedom of assembly, an essential part of freedom of expression.

Vision support the demands of trade unionists and others in Turkey that police violence against protestors must stop, that those responsible must be held accountable, that those who have been arrested must be freed and charges dropped, and that the ban on demonstrations must be lifted.

We urge the Turkish government to enter into dialogue to address the legitimate concerns expressed in the demonstrations and strikes and to immediately end the police brutality and instead respect protests and trade union actions.

My Union is concerned that your Government appears to be engaging in such repression as a regular practice based on this and earlier episodes; still fresh in our minds is this year's May Day celebrations, which turned to bloodshed after attacks on demonstrators by the security forces.

Vision believes that the right to peaceful demonstration is a basic element of genuine democracy. We are also concerned that since the 2011 elections, the legal and illegal denial of fundamental trade union rights has increased.

Turkey and its people deserve democracy and the protection of all their human rights, including trade union rights. We encourage your Government to move in that direction in the crucial days and weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Annika Strandhäll
President

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Vision is an affiliate of PSI and EPSU and organise employees in the Local and Regional Government, in the Church and in the private sector providing public services.