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M. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister
Republic of Turkey
receptayyip.erdogan@basbakanlik.gov.tr
bimer@basbakanlik.gov.tr
Fax: +90 312 422 1899, 417 0476, 419 2071

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of Kommunal, the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union, 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.

Kommunal joins the global union movement in calling on the Turkish government to immediately end police brutality, to respect these protests and trade union actions, and to enter into dialogue to address the legitimate concerns expressed.

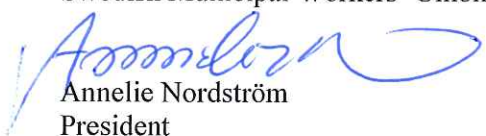
My union is concerned that your Government appears to be engaging in such repression as a regular practice based on this and earlier episodes; still fresh in our minds is this year's May Day celebrations, which turned to bloodshed after attacks on demonstrators by the security forces.

Kommunal 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.

Kommunal supports 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.

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,
Swedish Municipal Workers' Union – Kommunal


Annelie Nordström
President

Copies to:

Sadullah Ergin, Minister of Justice, +90 0312 417 7113, info@adalet.gov.tr
Muammer Güler, Minister of Interior, +90 312 4181795, muammer.guler@tbmm.gov.tr
Faruk Çelik, Minister of Labour, +90 312 212 7230, fcelik@csgb.gov.tr
embassy.stockholm@mfa.gov.tr epsu@epsu.org rights@world-psi.org

Kommunal, the biggest trade union in Sweden with more than 500 000 members, is an affiliate of PSI and EPSU.

Svenska Kommunalarbetareförbundet

POSTAL ADDRESS

Box 190 39, SE-104 32 Stockholm, Sweden

VISITING ADDRESS

Hagagatan 2

TELEPHONE

+46 10 442 70 00

TELEFAX

+46 8 31 87 45

WEB SITE

www.kommunal.se

E-MAIL ADDRESS

forbundet@kommunal.se