

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
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Dear Prime Minister Erdoğan,

I am writing to you on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), the global federation of National Medical Associations representing millions of physicians worldwide. Acting on behalf of patients and physicians, the WMA endeavours to achieve the highest possible standards of medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people. As such, the WMA plays a key role in promoting good practice, medical ethics and medical accountability internationally. The Association supports doctors at risk worldwide.

The purpose of this letter relates to the current demonstrations that started peacefully in Gezi Public Park in Taksim Square-İstanbul on 27 May. The Turkish Medical Association (TMA) has drawn our attention to alarming violence with excessive force used against protestors. TMA reports hundreds of cases of injury and detention following police confrontations with protestors in Ankara as well as in other provinces including Adana, Eskişehir and Gaziantep. According to our sources, the majority of the injuries were caused by the use of water cannon and tear gas.

The WMA condemns strongly crowd control or riot prevention technology – such as tear gas and water cannon – that is misused, including to perpetrate human rights abuses or that is used in a manner out of proportion with the need, or against populations with particular vulnerabilities.

We therefore call on you to immediately end the excessive use of force against peaceful protestors and to ensure the right to freedom of expression and assembly. We also urge initiation of an independent and impartial investigation into the excessive use of force and bringing to justice law enforcement officials found to have ill-treated demonstrators or other members of the public.

I thank you for your attention.

Dr Cecil Wilson, President
World Medical Association