

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

President of Turkey

Cumhurbaşkanlığı Külliyesi

06560 Beştepe-Ankara

Fax: (+90 312) 525 58 31

E-mail: contact@tccb.gov.tr

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Turkish Medical Association

Mr President Erdoğan

We are writing to you on behalf of the British Medical Association to express our grave concerns regarding the current campaign against the Turkish Medical Association (TMA). The strategy of arrest and intimidation further to its press release of 24 January 2018 stressing that war is a public health concern is a gross violation of international human rights norms, particularly rights to freedom of expression and opinion as stated in the [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) of 1948 and in the the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Turkey ratified in 2003, thereby consenting to be bound by its provisions.

It is entirely appropriate for a medical association to speak out concerning the health consequences of armed conflict. The BMA frequently speaks out in robust terms on these issues and will continue to do so. As senior members of the British Medical Association, speaking on behalf of the Association, its Council and the entire UK medical profession, we are appalled by the Government's arrest of the TMA's 11 Council members and condemn the arrest in the strongest possible terms.

We therefore urge you to:

- Release immediately the physicians' leaders of the Turkish Medical Association;
- Put an immediate end to all acts of harassment and intimidation, including at the judicial level, against the Turkish Medical Association;
- Ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by Turkey.



We trust that you will take promptly all the necessary actions in line with these core universal human rights and values.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chisholm". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Dearden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dr John Chisholm CBE
Chair Medical Ethics Committee

Dr Andrew Dearden
Treasurer