

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.

We sent you last week a letter expressing our deep concerns on the use of excessive force against protestors in Ankara as well as in other provinces including Adana, Eskişehir and Gaziantep.

The Turkish Medical Association, one of WMA members, reported cases of violence these last days that were directed at healthcare workers and medical students taking care of wounded people in houses, restaurants, and mosques that were converted into temporary infirmaries. Mobile clinics were disrupted and 13 doctors and students were detained in Ankara.

The WMA notes with serious concern that health-care services are threatened, violating the principle of medical neutrality. According to this principle - deriving from international human rights law, medical ethics and humanitarian law - health professionals must be allowed to care for the sick and wounded, regardless of their political affiliations. All parties must refrain from attacking and misusing medical facilities, transport, and personnel.

We therefore urge you to ensure that medical neutrality is fully respected and that all health personal is protected regardless of whom they help.

Furthermore, we reiterate our call to immediately end the excessive use of force against peaceful protestors and to ensure the right to freedom of expression and assembly.

I thank you for your attention.

Dr Cecil Wilson, President
World Medical Association