



Robert C. May
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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

July 30, 2019

**JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

RE: Support for Baki Tezcan

Dear Janet,

As you know, UC Davis Professor Baki Tezcan was recently arrested and detained in Turkey after signing a petition in 2016 criticizing the policies and actions of the Turkish government directed at Kurdish residents. Signing this petition was branded by the Turkish government as spreading terrorist propaganda: Of the over 2,000 academics who signed the petition, more than 700 have been indicted, with a number given prison sentences.

The Academic Council has been consistently concerned with attacks on academic freedom, domestically and internationally, and believes that it is important to clearly signal to those affected the support of their faculty colleagues, and the University community in general. In this light, the Academic Council has endorsed the following statement:

The Academic Council of the University of California Academic Senate strongly supports Professor Baki Tezcan, and urges the University to defend his and other Turkish academics' right to free speech and academic freedom.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Rob C May".

Robert C. May, Chair
Academic Council

Encl:

cc: Professor Tezcan
UC Davis History Chair Dickinson
Academic Council
Senate Directors