

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
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Your Excellency;

I would kindly like to ask you to advocate the release of the Rev. Andrew Brunson, who has been taken into custody in Turkey. The 49-year-old clergyman has been working exclusively as pastor of the “Resurrection Church” in the city of Izmir for the last 23 years. On October 7th of last year, he was arrested together with his wife Norine.

Whereas Mrs. Norine Brunson was released again on October 19th, serious political charges are being leveled against Pastor Brunson. So far, these charges have turned out to be completely unfounded. For a long time, the Rev. Brunson was denied access to a lawyer, and Turkish media have already declared him guilty. Members of his family and his church believe that he became a target of the authorities because of his faith.

In the year 2003, the Republic of Turkey ratified the “*International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*“ (ICCPR), according to which nobody can be arbitrarily detained. By ratifying the ICCPR, Turkey has also committed itself to respect freedom of religion.

I remain respectfully yours,