

# Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor  
Mr. Şaban Yılmaz  
97 Wurtemberg Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8L9

March 3, 2021

## Please Release the Detained Boğaziçi Protestors

Dear Mr. Yılmaz,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to drop all charges against the nine people who are currently under pre-trial detention and the twenty-seven other people who are under house arrest for peacefully protesting.

We are deeply concerned by the reports from Amnesty International that state that those protests were met with unnecessary and excessive force. We are also concerned about the inditement of the two students who are part of the **Boğaziçi University LGBTI+ club** with charges of inciting hatred and enmity. These charges contradict both the European Convention on Human rights and Turkey's domestic laws on the right to exercise freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

We believe that you have an obligation to immediately and unconditionally release the all the people deprived of their liberty and to drop all charges against them. We also request that you launch a prompt, thorough investigation, impartial and independent on the allegations of unlawful force and to bring those responsible to justice in a fair trial. The rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly cannot be arbitrarily restricted and people should not be detained for exercising these rights.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N Lane".

Nathan Lane  
Executive Director  
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mackenzie Francoeur".

Mackenzie Francoeur  
Vice President Equity  
TRU Students' Union

cc: Kerim Uras – Ambassador for Turkey