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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

MIKE DOYLE
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December 17, 2014

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The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing to express my concern about the recent arrests of journalists in Turkey. These arrests appear to be politically motivated, specifically targeting individuals who have published reports critical of the Turkish government. This is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated by the United States.

In recent years, the Turkish government has carried out a number of similar police raids and arrests, targeting any forms of dissent and condemning those government leaders perceive as critical of their rule. Those efforts include the arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists, opposition leaders, protesters, and law enforcement officials investigating charges of official corruption. In addition, the governing majority in Parliament has adopted a number of new laws to increase censorship, expand police powers like surveillance, and increase criminal penalties for protesting and other acts of public opposition to the government. This clear pattern is a danger to the freedom of expression and the rule of law in Turkey, and it prevents its citizens from being able to adequately express their opinions and participate in democracy.

The United States should not turn a blind eye to these egregious actions by the Turkish government and the growing threat to democracy they represent. In light of recent developments, I urge you to raise the recent arrests with the Turkish government, strongly condemn its subversion of democracy and the rule of law, and demand the release of these journalists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Doyle".

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress