



TITLE/ TÍTULO/ TITRE:	No Future Without Freedom and Democracy!
ORGANIZATION/ ORGANIZACIÓN/ ORGANISATION:	Jusos & CHP Youth
COUNTRY/ PAÍS/ PAYS:	Germany & Türkiye

1 The International Union of Socialist Youth is the global voice of young socialists and social
 2 democrats committed to democracy, freedom, and social justice. The current developments in
 3 Türkiye, which once again reveal the government's increasingly authoritarian course, alarm us as a
 4 young generation of activists. Erdoğan's government has been taking action against the opposition
 5 for years with politically motivated trials against politicians, attempts to remove elected opposition
 6 officials from the Republican People's Party (CHP) and DEM Party, and a general increasing
 7 repression against opposition voices, journalists, and civil society activists. This is not merely a
 8 domestic issue but part of a wider global struggle against rising authoritarianism.

9 One particularly alarming sign of this authoritarian trend is the revocation of the university diploma
 10 of Istanbul's mayor and President Erdoğan's main challenger, Ekrem İmamoğlu – a blatant attempt
 11 to prevent his nomination as a presidential candidate. His subsequent arrest, along with more than
 12 100 other politicians and journalists, highlights Erdoğan's government's deliberate strategy to
 13 criminalize all opposition voices and further dismantle democracy. These are not isolated incidents,
 14 but part of a long-standing, large-scale attack on political diversity and freedom of expression in
 15 the country.

16 Civil society in Türkiye and especially university students once again demonstrate remarkable
 17 resilience in these times. Amid repression, restrictions on freedom of expression and the ongoing
 18 erosion of democratic institutions, many people are showing impressive courage, resistance, and
 19 an unwavering will for change. Despite intimidation, state violence, and arbitrary arrests, they
 20 refuse to be silenced. This determined resistance deserves not only our respect, but also concrete
 21 and visible support from the international community. As a result of the countrywide
 22 demonstrations, 301 university students exercising their constitutional right to protest were
 23 arrested.

24 The international community must no longer remain silent or tolerate the authoritarian actions of
 25 President Erdoğan and his regime in exchange for migration and security-related interests. Any
 26 engagement must be based on a firm commitment to human rights and democratic values — not
 27 at their expense.

28 As the youth of the progressive and socialist movement, we affirm that democracy cannot be a
 29 privilege reserved for a few nations. It must be defended everywhere. The Turkish people have
 30 demonstrated their commitment to democratic principles, and we stand in full solidarity with them
 31 against these acts of repression.

32 In this spirit, we:

- 33 • Condemn the politically motivated charges and legal harassment against Ekrem İmamoğlu
 34 and 100 other persons including mayors, local politicians and journalists who were arrested



- 35 at the same time. Also the years of legal action against Selahattin Demirtaş and Osman
36 Kavala must end. We demand their immediate release.
- 37 • Demand the immediate release of all students and activists who were taken into custody
38 during the recent protests. We condemn any further processes against citizens and
39 students who exercise their right to protest.
- 40 • Call on international institutions, including the European Union and the United Nations, to
41 increase diplomatic and political pressure on the Erdoğan administration to respect
42 democratic norms and human rights.
- 43 • Urge progressive forces around the world to strengthen solidarity with democratic
44 opposition forces and students in Türkiye.
- 45 • Commit to intensifying our global fight against autocracy, from Türkiye to Hungary, from
46 Venezuela to Myanmar, ensuring that democracy prevails over dictatorship.
- 47 Only a democratic Türkiye can provide the foundation for a future in which all individuals can live
48 together in peace, equality, and mutual respect – regardless of their background, beliefs, or
49 identity. This goal deserves our collective attention, solidarity, and commitment.
- 50 The struggle for democracy knows no borders. Our generation will not stand idly by as leaders
51 erode civil liberties and silence dissent. Together, as socialists, democrats, and progressives, we
52 reaffirm our unwavering commitment to defending democracy in Türkiye and across the world.