

Interior Minister
Sayin Bakan Suleyman Soylu
Devlet, T.C. İçisleri Bakanligi İçerisinde Bakanliklar/Ankara
06580 Çankaya/Ankara
Turkey

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my great concern regarding the detention of Mr. Andrew Brunson. I am aware that Mr Brunson, an US citizen (passport number: 465609705), has been detained without trial since October 7th 2016, accused of alleged links to a terrorist organisation.

Mr. Andrew Brunson is an expatriate worker who, according to reliable sources, was not acting against the Turkish State or committing any crime. Mr. Brunson does not support and is not associated with any groups or organisations operating against the Turkish State. His purposes in Turkey were to provide aid to people in his local community, motivated by his Christian faith and compassionate concern for those in need.

It can only be assumed that his detention is the result of the peaceful outworking of his religious convictions. Turkey is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Art. 18 of this covenant states:

‘Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.’

Mr. Brunson has been acting only in accordance with the observance, practice and teaching of his Christian beliefs. Therefore, the Turkish authorities are violating international human rights law by detaining him without trial. To my knowledge he has also only had restricted access to his lawyer and to visits by his family.

Respectfully, I would request that you intervene to ensure that Mr. Brunson’s rights are upheld and, in so doing, that he will be allowed to return home to the United States.

Yours sincerely,