RALLY FoR
TuNA ALTINEL'S FReeDom

Academics for Peace

Contact (support committee):
soutienTunaAltinel@douaalter.lautre.net

On 11 May, 2019, Tuna Altınel, assistant professor at the university of Lyon, was remanded in custody in Turkey. In January 2016, Tuna Altınel signed a petition launched by "Academics for peace". This petition, entitled "We will not be a party to this crime!", urged the Turkish government to resume peace talks and put an end to all forms of abuse against the Kurdish population in Turkey. Today, out of the 2212 signers, nearly 700 have been prosecuted for "propaganda for a terrorist organisation". Tuna Altınel is one of them. He is also accused of participating in an information meeting on the same issue in Villeurbanne (France) in February 2019.

On 12 April, 2019, as Tuna Altinel arrived in Istanbul to visit his family during academic recess, his passport was confiscated and he was told he was not allowed to return to France to carry on his teaching and research activities. As he was attempting to have his passport returned to him, he was imprisoned. His friends and his colleagues have been very worried since then. A support committee has been formed in order to draw attention to Tuna Altınel's situation and call for his liberation.

A rally took place in Lyon on Tuesday, 14 May at 6 pm. Three hundred people were there to express their solidarity with Tuna Altınel, but also with all those jailed in Turkey for exercising their freedom of speech. Several associations, colleagues, and friends of Tuna Altınel's addressed the gathering to recall the academics' situation in Turkey. A message of Tuna Altınel transmitted by his lawyer was read, and provoked a strong emotion.

We urge the academic institutions and the French government to intervene as soon as possible, in order to free Tuna Altınel, a public servant of the French state, and, more widely, to enforce the fundamental rights of our colleagues and the victims of repression in Turkey.

Tuna Altınel's support committee.

http://math.univ-lyon1.fr/SoutienTunaAltinel/