



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

King Charles Street  
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Minister of State for  
Europe and the Americas

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Ms Kirsty Brimelow QC  
298-293 High Holborn  
London  
WC1V 7HZ

Dear Ms Brimelow,

Thank you for your letter of 15 May to the Prime Minister about the rule of law in Turkey. I am replying as Minister responsible for our relations with Turkey.

We also have concerns regarding the rule of law and human rights situation in Turkey. In our regular dialogue with Turkey we have urged Turkey to lift the State of Emergency and we continue to press this message with our Turkish counterparts at all levels.

Human rights and rule of law in Turkey were subjects that the Prime Minister raised with President Erdogan during their recent meeting. The Prime Minister urged Turkey not to lose sight of the democratic values it is seeking to defend in its reaction to the attempted coup in 2016. She also emphasised the UK's desire to see Turkey protect democratic values by maintaining the rule of law and upholding its international human rights obligations.

With regards to detentions, we are aware that approximately 50,000 people have been detained since the coup attempt and that there have been some reports of ill-treatment. We have raised our concerns with the Turkish Government and have called for Turkey to engage with the recommendations put forward by the Council of Europe and other international bodies. We are clear in our expectations that Turkey undertake any legal processes fairly, transparently and with full respect for the rule of law. We ask Turkey to ensure fair and speedy trials, and to find a new way forward. But we also believe that in order to achieve this we must engage with Turkey.

These are issues I have personally raised during my several trips to Turkey over the last two years. We will continue to press our messages on human rights and the rule of law to our Turkish counterparts, monitor the situation in Turkey closely and work with the international community to ensure Turkey lives up to its human rights obligations.

Yours sincerely,  
Alan Duncan

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