February 15, 2017

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
President of the Republic of Turkey
T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Genel Sekreterliği

Dear President Erdoğan;

We write to request that Mr. Andrew Brunson, an American citizen who has been unjustly detained in Turkey, be immediately released and deported.

Mr. Brunson has worked peacefully in Turkey since 1993. There appears to be no evidence to substantiate the charges against him for membership in an armed terrorist organization. Moreover, your government has repeatedly denied regular and appropriate access to legal counsel and American consular services.

Mr. Brunson’s imprisonment has been raised repeatedly by U.S. Government officials with officials of the Government of Turkey. Unfortunately, high-level efforts to secure Mr. Brunson’s release have been unsuccessful. We have closely followed developments with this case, and are deeply disappointed.

The United States and Turkey have benefited from a close partnership for decades, and we hope to be in a position to continue strengthening these ties. Now is the time for our countries to reaffirm respect for fundamental freedoms and the rule of law while reasserting our shared commitment to addressing security challenges through partnerships and cooperation.

In this spirit of partnership, we respectfully ask you to consider Mr. Brunson’s case and how the recent treatment of Mr. Brunson places significant strain not only on him and his family, but also on the robust bilateral relationship between the United States and Turkey.

We appeal to you to inquire as to the options for promptly deporting Mr. Brunson and to act on them expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Bob Corker
United States Senator

Ben Cardin
United States Senator

Edward R. Royce
United States Representative

Eliot L. Engel
United States Representative
James E. Risch  
United States Senator

John Thune  
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

Thom Tillis  
United States Senator

Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator

Todd Young  
United States Senator

Brian Babin  
United States Representative

Mike Bost  
United States Representative

Ted Budd  
United States Representative

Brendan F. Boyle  
United States Representative

David N. Cicilline  
United States Representative
Adam Kinzinger  
United States Representative

Tom Marino  
United States Representative

Patrick T. McHenry  
United States Representative

Robert Pittenger  
United States Representative

David E. Price  
United States Representative

Peter J. Roskam  
United States Representative

Brad Sherman  
United States Representative

Barry Loudermilk  
United States Representative

James P. McGovern  
United States Representative

Mark Meadows  
United States Representative

Ted Poe  
United States Representative

Dana Rohrabacher  
United States Representative

Steve Russell  
United States Representative

Christopher H. Smith  
United States Representative
David G. Valadao  
United States Representative

Ted S. Yoho  
United States Representative

Tim Walberg  
United States Representative

Lee M. Zeldin  
United States Representative