



United States Mission to the OSCE

Release of Turkish Journalists

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 3, 2016

The United States welcomes the court ruling ending the pre-trial imprisonment of Cumhuriyet editor-in-chief Can Dündar and Ankara bureau chief Erdem Gül. Although they are out of jail pending trial, they still face serious charges stemming from their work as journalists. The U.S. government will continue to follow their case closely.

Freedom of expression, including for the media, underpins a strong, democratic society. We call on Turkish authorities to ensure that all individuals and organizations – including but not limited to the media – are free to voice a full range of opinions and criticism, in accordance with Turkey's international obligations, OSCE commitments, and Turkish constitutional guarantees of media freedom and freedom of expression.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.