

LAWYERS UNDER ATTACK IN TURKEY

Lawyers in Turkey are being prosecuted and convicted in large numbers for simply doing their job and defending their clients.

Two lawyers, sentenced to lengthy prison sentences, have been on hunger strike for well over 100 days, asking for a fair trial and justice for all, because every other time they asked they were ignored.

Imprisoned lawyers were left out of the group of prisoners being released following the start of the COVID 19-crisis, as were journalists, human rights defenders and other political prisoners.

The Bar Associations of Ankara and Diyarbakır are under investigation for expressing their opinion on human rights matters.

All these issues show that lawyers in Turkey are under attack. An attack on lawyers for doing their job is an attack on the rule of law.

We, the undersigned lawyers' organisations from all over the world, call on the Turkish government to respect the independence of lawyers and judges in performing their professional duties, as international human rights law requires.

We urge the Turkish government to publicly support lawyers as essential agents in the administration of justice, to stop harassing and prosecuting them, to reverse unlawful convictions and to release the unjustly detained from prison.

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- International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)
 - Fair Trial Watch (FTW)
 - MAF-DAD e.V (Association for Democracy and International Law), Germany
 - International Observatory for Lawyers in Danger (IOLD)
 - Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L)
 - International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL)
 - Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC)
 - International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
 - The Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC)
 - European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH)
 - Défense Sans Frontière-Avocats Solidaires (DSF-AS)
 - AIJA - International Association of Young Lawyers
 - International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)
 - The Institute for the Rule of Law of the International Association of Lawyers (UIA-IROL)
 - Giuristi Democratici, Italy

- Avocats Européens Démocrates - European Democratic Lawyers (AED-EDL)
- Legal Team Italia
- Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)
- Giunta dell'Unione delle Camere Penali Italiane - Osservatorio Avvocati minacciati UCPI, Italy
- Human Rights Embassy, Moldova
- Syndicat des Avocats pour la Démocratie (SAD)
- Asociación Libre de Abogados y Abogados (ALA)
- European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA)
- Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe (FBE)
- Human Rights Commission of the Fédération des Barreaux d'Europe (FBE)
- Berlin Bar Association, Germany
- Paris Bar Association, France
- Rotterdam Bar Association, the Netherlands
- Amsterdam Bar Association, the Netherlands
- Gelderland Bar Association, the Netherlands
- Polish Bar Council
- The Swedish Bar Association
- Italian National Bar Council (CNF)
- Republikanischer Anwältinnen - und Anwälte Verein e.V. (RAV), Germany
- National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law in Poland - Krajowa Izba Radcow Prawnych