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EUROPESE DEMOKRATISCHE ADVOCATEN
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS



**Free our 16 colleagues,
members of ÇHD (Progressive Lawyers Association), arrested in Turkey:**

Barkın Timtik
Ebru Timtik
Süleyman Gökten
Ezgi Çakır
Ahmet Mandacı
Yağmur Ereren
Aytaç Ünsal
Didem Baydar Ünsal
Ayşegül Çağatay
Engin Gökoğlu
Behiç Aşçı
Aycan Çiçek
Şükriye Erden
Özgür Yılmaz
Zehra Özdemir
Naciye Demir

We have been informed that our 16 colleagues are currently under detention in Ankara, Istanbul and Diyarbakır. We are very worried about the situation of the lawyers Barkın Timtik, Engin Gökoğlu and Özgür Yılmaz. They may have been subject to torture.

The president of ÇHD Selçuk and Betül Kozağaçlı have not been arrested but we have been informed that their practice of lawyering has been limited and their phones and computers seized.

In the early morning of the 12th September a new police operation took place, which culminated with the arrest of 16 lawyers. These lawyers are members of the People's Law Office and have represented the activists Nuriye Gülmen and Semih Özakça, who are currently on hunger strike after being dismissed from their teaching positions. Their trial will take place on the 14th of September.

As we have been informed, with this last wave of crackdowns against lawyers, the number of lawyers under criminal prosecution in Turkey is now 1343. 524 of them have been arrested since the coup attempt in July 2016.

We urge the Turkish government to ensure that the 16 lawyers mentioned above are immediately released because we believe that they were taken into custody solely because of their professional activity as lawyers.

We demand to take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of lawyers in Turkey as well as their ability to perform their professional duties without fear of reprisal, hindrance, intimidation or harassment.

We express our concern over the situation in Turkey where the regime of President Erdogan harasses lawyers and pursues them by the tribunals, used as a weapon for repression. The lawyers seem to be purged because of the exercise of their duties as Lawyers defenders.

The AED finally wants to express its concern over the situation of human rights defenders in Turkey and emphasises the due respect for human rights and the rule of law. We are very concerned with situation of the persecuted lawyers.

Paris, Amsterdam, Barcelona, 13th of September 2017.

AED/EDL (Avocats Européens Démocrates / European Democratic Lawyers)

Founded in 1987, the Association of European Democratic Lawyers (AED) is a confederation of trade unions and lawyers' organizations from France, Germany, The Netherlands, Catalonia, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Italy and Turkey with the same democratic, modern and humane ideals in Europe. The AED intends to defend the rights of citizens by preserving the independence of lawyers with regard to any political, social, economic or ordinal power.

As a professional organization, its international purpose is to ensure respect for the rights of the defense and, in particular, to safeguard the physical integrity and political and economic freedom of lawyers. The association also works to ensure that all individuals have access to national and international judicial appeals, particularly those who are in the most precarious situations and whose basic rights are not recognized or poorly recognized.

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