



AVOCATS EUROPÉENS DEMOCRATES  
ABOKATU DEMOKRATA EUROPARRAK  
AVRUPALI DEMOKRAT AVUKATLAR  
EUROPÄISCHE DEMOKRATISCHE RECHTSANWÄLTE  
ADVOCATS EUROPEUS DEMOCRATES  
ABOGADOS EUROPEOS DEMÓCRATAS  
AVVOCATI EUROPEI DEMOCRATICI  
EUROPESE DEMOKRATISCHE ADVOCATEN  
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS



**Free our 14 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

16 members of ÇHD were arrested on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September in Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir, Ordu and Diyarbakır. We have been informed that our colleagues have been tortured. Our colleague, Engin Gökoğlu, who has been on hunger strike for 28 days, has been sent to the hospital after he severely beaten by police officers. Currently 14 lawyers are in prison.

The president of ÇHD Selçuk and the executive board member of ÇHD Ankara Branch 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.

The lawyers who were arrested at 12<sup>th</sup> of September are mostly members of the People's Law Office and all of them have represented the activists Nuriye Gülmen and Semih Özakça, who are currently on hunger strike after being dismissed from their teaching positions. Their trial was at 14<sup>th</sup> of September and took place without their lawyers.

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, Madrid, Brussels, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

[www.aeud.org](http://www.aeud.org)

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