

Violation of the rights to defence in Turkey: New arrests of lawyers

The Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA-International Association of Lawyers) has been informed of the arrest and detention in Istanbul of 9 lawyers at around 6 am this morning. Those lawyers are İrfan Arasan, Ayşe Acinikli, Hüseyin Boğatekin, Şefik Çelik, Adem Çalışçı, Ayşe Başar, Tamer Doğan, Ramazan Demir and Mustafa Ruzgar.

According to the information collected by the UIA, the reason for these arrests has so far not been disclosed to the lawyers by Turkish security forces. These lawyers are all members of the Association of Lawyers for Freedom (Ozgurlukcu Hukukcular Dernegi - OHD). They are representing 46 lawyers prosecuted for their participation in the defence of the leader of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), Abdullah Öcalan, and all have been called to appear at a hearing scheduled tomorrow, on the 17th of March.

The UIA severely condemns these arrests, which appear to be arbitrary and in violation of the rights of the defense as enshrined in all international and regional human rights instruments ratified by Turkey¹.

The UIA denounces, once again, the recurrent attacks on Human rights lawyers, stemming from the abusive use of anti-terrorism legislation. It deplores the fact that once again lawyers are systematically identified with their clients or with the cause defended by them. Such assimilation violates the principles protecting the profession².

More about the UIA



The Union Internationale des Avocats (International Association of Lawyers - UIA) was founded in 1927. It is the oldest worldwide legal association and brings together around two million lawyers through its individual members and collective members (bars, federations, and associations) from more than 110 countries.

The main aims of the UIA are to promote the fundamental principles of the legal profession; to contribute to the establishment of an international legal order based on the principle of justice between nations, through law and in the cause of peace; and, to defend lawyers and their clients. .

For more information go to: www.uianet.org - uiacentre@uianet.org

Press contacts:

Marie-Pierre LIENARD, Communication Officer mplienard@uianet.org
Romina BOSSA-ABIVEN, Human Rights and Legal Profession Project Assistant, rbossa@uianet.org

¹ See in particular Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966.

² See in particular the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Havana (Cuba) from 27 August to 7 September 1990.