



Mr. Bekir Bozdağ
Justice Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Brussels, 23 May 2017

Dear Minister Bekir Bozdağ,

We, the undersigned members of the European Parliament, wish to express our deepest concern about the ongoing state of emergency and disproportionate effects thereof on democracy and human rights in Turkey.

During the state of emergency, over 100.000 civil servants, military officers, judges, teachers and academics have been dismissed from their jobs. Tens of thousands have been arrested and prosecuted over alleged links to last year's alleged failed coup.

Nuriye Gülmen, who was dismissed from her post in Selcuk University, and Semih Özakça, dismissed from his post in a primary school, by emergency decrees are on the 196th day of their "I want my job back" protest, and on the 76th day of their permanent hunger strike. Nuriye Gülmen and Semih Özakça are just two examples out of thousands of Turkish citizens affected by the disproportionate measures of the government under the state of emergency.

We regret to hear that their health is seriously deteriorating and that they reached the life-threatening stage. Despite this fact, Nuriye Gülmen and Semih Özakça were arbitrarily detained after a midnight police raid at their houses last Monday. We thereby demand their immediate release. We would equally like to express our solidarity with the people of Turkey and those who have been arbitrarily detained and dismissed under the state of emergency. We urgently call on Turkish authorities to end the state of emergency as soon as possible and to enable all persons dismissed or arrested following the coup attempt of 15 July to have immediate access to an independent and effective appeals mechanism.

Yours sincerely,

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