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AVVOCATI EUROPEI DEMOCRATICI
EUROPESE DEMOKRATISCHE ADVOKATEN
EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

**Commission Defense of the Defense
European Democratic Lawyers (EDL)**

C/ Montesa 49, 5^oA;
28006, Madrid.
España.

Mr. Recep Tayip Erdogan
Prime Minister of Turkey
Office of the Prime Minister
Başbakanlık
06573, Ankara, Türkiye

Your Excellency

we are writing you on behalf of the association **European Democratic Lawyers** (EDL), which is an organization whose aim is to promote the proper exercise of the human rights and the rule of law. In our organization, we work specifically in the Commission of Defense of the Defense, whose main concern is to verify and monitor the free exercise of the legal profession, being the right of defense one the main protections for the rule law.

Today we want to respectfully draw your attention to the news released that more than 50 lawyers were detained in the Palace of Justice of Çağlayan, Istanbul, while they were reading out a statement in solidarity with the protests in Taksim Square and against the police violence inflicted to the demonstrators.

Several lawyers have been hit either by the special armed forces of the police and the private security officers of the building, even inside the judicial premises.

Moreover, as far as we know from the news and our sources, 200 volunteer lawyers were previously banned to provide legal advice to detainees in demonstrations in the Central Directorate of Security in Ankara, which eventually prompted the protest in front of this police office.

Thus, we strongly remind your Government that the Basic Principles on the Function of Lawyers approved during the VIII Congress of the United Nations on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders that took place in Havana

on the 27th of August and the 7th of September 1990 and concretely to its articles 1, 16 and 18, stipulate the following:

"16. Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference"

Moreover, articles 1,2,5,7 and 8 stipulate that Governments shall ensure effective and equal access to lawyers for detained and arrested people.

Lastly, article 23 stipulates that *"Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization"*.

Considering the abovementioned, we are deeply concerned by the repression carried out by the special forces of the police during the free and peaceful exercise of the right to assemble, and therefore we call your Government to ensure that lawyers are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference, and to release our colleagues that may remain still in prison immediately, ensuring their personal and professional safeties.

We kindly request your response on the shortest notice possible.

Sincerely,

Gorka Vellé Bergado

Coordinator of the Commission Defense of the Defense
European Democratic Lawyers (EDL)