

Minister of Justice of the Republic of  
Turkey

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Ref. JWG/cb

Brussels, 6 November 2015

Dear Minister, dear Mr Ipek,

We have been informed that the leader of the Tunceli local trade union branch of GENEL-IS, Mr. Erkan Yilmaz, has been arrested on charges of terrorism. These charges are based on article 100 of the Code of criminal procedure (Ceza Muhakemesi Kanunu). The Court has not provided justification of the grounds of the detention.

The background to the case is that there was troubles in the centre of Tunceli on 4 September 2015. Shooting caused injuries to a passerby. A woman got seriously injured. Mr. Yilmaz sought to provide assistance and tried to get her transported to a hospital. The driver of a car refused help and fled the scene. She died of her injuries as an ambulance came too late.

22 October Mr. Yilmaz was detained. He is accused of obstructing police work. But this has not been specified. Apparently the driver in the car was an under-cover agent ? Or is it not allowed in Turkey to provide assistance to wounded persons ?

We kindly ask you to investigate the case and provide the attorneys/ lawyers that are assisting Mr. Yilmaz access to all information. We understand that he was not engaged in any violence, and that also other grounds of article 100 do not provide justification for his continued detention. We ask you therefore to ensure the immediate release of Mr. Yilmaz.

In case you have information that would help us understand the case please let us know.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary

cc. Chair of the Committee of the European Parliament regarding relations with Turkey.