

## **RESOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES (IAJ)**

The International Association of Judges finds:

That 1500 Turkish judges are in detention in Turkey, most of them for more than one year.

One of them is Murat Arslan, whose courageous commitment to democracy, human rights and rule of law in his country, was awarded the Vaclav Havel Human Rights price.

He is accused of being a member of a terrorist organisation, but any evidence of this accusation against an inconvenient critic is not established.

The only independent judges association of Turkey, YARSAV, was dissolved by the government on the basis of an emergency decree and many of the members are among the judges who are detained.

The Turkish High Council of Judges and Prosecutors, instead of protecting the judiciary, turned into an instrument of the government and decided to dismiss the judges and prosecutors without waiting for the result of the criminal procedure, which infringes the presumption of innocence.

That, contrary to this principle, the assets of the judges were seized and their families were deprived of the means for basic necessities,

That the judges and prosecutors who remained in office or have been placed into the positions which have become vacant are held under inappropriate pressure which had led to the disappearance of an independent judiciary in Turkey.

### **The International Association of Judges urges Turkey:**

- to reestablish the rule of law in this country,
- to free those judges , prosecutors , lawyers and others who are detained without due process,
- to provide everyone with a fair trial which upholds international and European standards, and
- to stop the unfounded propaganda that the IAJ is, or supports, a terrorist organisation.

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