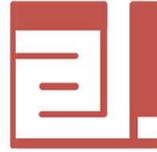




ELDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights

WITH LAWYERS
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Equality Privacy Social Rights
No Racism Peace No Torture No War
Self-Determination of Peoples Democracy
Human Rights Rights of Migrants

London/Düsseldorf/Barcelona, 08 September 2016

European Lawyers demand: release MUNİP ERMİS immediatly!

The European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH) and the European Democratic Lawyers (EDL) are gravely concerned at the news that the Vice President of ;CHD - Çağdaş Hukukçular Derneği –Progressive Lawyers Association, the advocate Münip Ermiş was taken into custody this morning. His house and his office were searched. His is one of the names in a search warrant which i includes 26 lawyers.

For many years ÇHD has been a member organisation of ELDH, and we know Mr. Münip Ermiş very well as an admirable lawyer who has defended many victims of human rights violations in Turkey.

This arrest is part of a pattern of prosecutions for alleged terrorist offences that the Turkish government is bringing against its citizens, including journalists, trade union members, human rights activists, members of parliament, academics and students who are committed to a peaceful solution of the Kurdish question and to freedom of speech.

Since the government started operations giving as their reason the fight against the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization (FETÖ), it is clear that they are using this as a pretext for oppression of organisations and individuals who have definitely no connection with FETÖ.

ÇHD is an association, which since 1974 has campaigned for the respect and defence of human rights and the defence of oppressed people in Turkey. ÇHD and all its members are fine examples of principled and courageous advocacy in Turkey. This is not the first case of government attacks against ÇHD. The trial against 22 other high ranking ÇHD members has been pending since 2013. ELDH and EDL are is gravely concerned that the arrest of lawyer Münip Ermiş is another case brought against lawyers simply because they fulfil their professional functions.

ELDH and EDL strongly condemn the arrest and detention of ÇHD Vice president, Münip Ermiş. ELDH and EDL demand his immediate release and the end of all unjustified persecution. ELDH and EDL demand furthermore that the Turkish government respects the professional work and role of lawyers, and complies in particular with Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as Art. 16 and 18 of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. ELDH and EDL offer their solidarity to the Turkish lawyers in their fight for human rights and justice under the present Turkish regime.

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