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16 February 2012

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Arrest of members of KESK, SES, Tüm Bel Sen, BES, and Egitim Sen**

Public Services International (PSI) and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), together with the International Trade union Confederation (ITUC), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Education International (EI) and the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), are writing to you yet again to protest in the strongest terms against the harassment and intimidation of our affiliates.

We have learnt that on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012, 15 women trade union leaders and activists, members of PSI, EPSU, EI, ETUCE, ITUC and ETUC affiliates, were arrested and dragged from their homes in early morning raids. Further, the offices of municipal workers union, Tüm Bel Sen, and health and social service workers union, SES, (both affiliated to PSI/EPSU) as well as the offices of the Confederation of Civil Servants Trade Unions, KESK, (affiliated to ITUC) were invaded and searched as part of a so-called police investigation.

According to our information, those detained are:

Canan Çalağan	KESK Women's Secretary
Songul Morsumbul	KESK Former Women's Secretary
Bedriye Yorgun	SES Women's Secretary and SES Former President
Belkıs Yurtseven	SES Ankara Branch Member
Hülya Mendillioğlu	SES Ankara Branch Member
Nurşat Yeşil	SES Ankara Branch Member
Özden Özmen Gök	SES Ankara Branch Member
Güler Elveren	Tüm Bel Sen Women's Secretary
Leman Yurtsever	BES Former Executive Board Member
Güldane Dogan	Egitim Sen Ankara Branch (no.2) Women's Secretary
Hatice Beydilli	Egitim Sen Ankara Branch (no.1) Member

Evrım Özdemir Ođrař Eđitim Sen Ankara Branch (no.1) member  
řefika řimřek Eđitim Sen Ankara Branch Member  
Nezahat Asrav Eđitim Sen Ankara Branch Member  
Meral Hız Eđitim Sen Ankara Branch Member

A total of 27 KESK members, including Executive Committee members, are currently in prison because of their "political ideas".

Given the number of times that we have had to write to the Turkish government denouncing attacks against trade unions, we can only agree with our joint affiliates' assertion that these arrests and ransacking of union offices are part of a continued campaign of oppression, designed to undermine their defence of human and trade union rights.

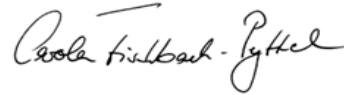
We repeat that the continued use of state apparatus to harass and intimidate trade union leaders and activists because of their legitimate democratic activities is a serious violation of European and international legislation and treaties to which Turkey is a signatory, including International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 87 (on Freedom of Association and the Right to Organise), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the European Convention on Human Rights.

PSI, EPSU, ITUC, ETUC, EI and ETUCE will continue to extend our support to Turkish trade unionists against police and state terror, and in their struggle for democracy, human rights and trade union freedoms. We will call on the ILO and members in the European Parliament to denounce such practices of intimidation and oppression.

We anticipate your early reply,



Peter Waldorff  
PSI General Secretary



Carola Fischbach-Pyttel  
EPSU General Secretary




Sharan Burrow  
ITUC General Secretary



Bernadette Ségol  
ETUC General Secretary



Fred van Leeuwen  
EI General Secretary



Martin Rømer  
ETUCE European Director

Cc: Mr Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey; Mr İdris Naim řahin, Minister of Interior; Mr Sadullah Ergin, Justice Minister  
Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations in Geneva  
Mr. řtefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood