



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS  
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS  
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER  
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**

**PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY**

Paris, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Bekir BOZDAG**

Ministre de la justice

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Your Excellency,

IAJ notes with great concerns that on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, at the very same moment when the 59<sup>th</sup> congress of IAJ discussed the current situation in Turkey and appealed to the Turkish authorities amongst other to reverse the decision to dissolve YARSAV, the only independent association of judges and prosecutors in Turkey, the Turkish authorities detained the president of YARSAV, Murat Arslan.

Having in mind on the one hand that those incarceration took place more than 3 months after the putsch has been put down and on the other hand that Murat Arslan was mentioned on the list of alleged opponents of the regime longtime before the putsch attempt, IAJ has a strong suspicion that this detention must be connected to the support IAJ is giving to judges and prosecutors in Turkey hunted for political reasons.

IAJ stresses once again that any detention of any person has to observe fundamental human rights and basic procedural rules as for instance the prohibition of torture and the principle of presumption of innocence, the freedom of thought, the freedom of expression and the freedom of assembly.

IAJ especially stresses strongly that there must be at least reasonable, concrete grounds of suspicion of an involvement in a crime to prosecute a person, that measures of prosecution have to be necessary and must always be proportionate, so that for example pretrial detention is only permissible based on very specific grounds.

Considering all this IAJ urges the Turkish authorities to immediately release Murat Arslan, the president of YARSAV.

IAJ will follow this case very closely.

Christophe REGNARD  
IAJ President