



Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
President of Turkey

By email: [contact@tccb.gov.tr](mailto:contact@tccb.gov.tr)

**Date**

28 May 2021

**Our reference**

21-105/TE/TP/mdj

**Subject**

Arrested trade unionists of SES

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**Annex**

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Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Trade Union of Employees in Public Health and Social Services (SES) and as president of the FNV, the largest trade union of the Netherlands, I would like to bring to your attention our very serious concern about the recent arrest of 8 executives on 25th of May 2021. Police forces raided their houses in the early hours of the day.

We are referring to Ms. Selma Atabey, co-president, Ms. Gonul Erden, former co-president, Mr. Fikret Calagan, former executive committee member, Ms. Bedriye Yorgun, former president, Ms. Belkis Yurtsever, former executive committee member, Ms. Rona Temelli, former executive of the SES Branch in Ankara, Mr. Ramazan Tas, former executive of the SES Branch in Ankara, Mr. Erdal Turan, former executive of the SES Branch in Ankara

According to our information these trade union leaders have been arrested with very brute and unproportional police force. We have received reports of violent and intimidating actions at the respective homes of the arrested leaders towards themselves as well as towards their family members. These leaders are now held in the Ankara Police Department.

The arrest of our colleagues seems to have a broader objective, it is an attack on the legitimate and ordinary trade union activities of SES. It also aims to manipulate the real agenda of the health sector, problems with the management of COVID-19 pandemic, health workers' problems at hospitals and the increasing death rate of health workers. Issues that have been voiced very clearly by the leaders of SES.

We stand in solidarity with the arrested leaders. We urge your government to drop all the charges against them in observance of your obligations under the ratified international labour and human rights treaties.

We expect a response from you on substantive guarantees of the fundamental freedom of association for these trade unionists.

Yours sincerely,

Tuur Elzinga  
President FNV  
Netherlands

CC:

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