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Solidarity with your fellow activist and sister Gonul Erden

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Annex  
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Dear Mehmet and Osman,  
Dear brothers and sisters of KESK,

On behalf of FNV I would like to express our solidarity with your fellow activist and sister Gonul Erden who will stand on trial for her trade union activities this coming 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

She was among several people arrested in May last year when they were protesting against the failing government policies in relation to the pandemic and public health. These policies have resulted in economic hardship and excessive deaths. Gonul has been in jail since then and remains there following a recent court appearance.

EPSU vice-president Françoise Geng, together with other trade unionists, including from UNISON in the UK, attended the trial in Ankara on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The court heard from an anonymous witness but did not take other evidence and views brought forward by union lawyers. Furthermore, the current president of the union, Sela Atabey, was slapped with travel restrictions.

This Monday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the next hearing is foreseen, and I hope that through the participation of FNV colleague Eric Vermeulen in the international trade union delegation that will be present, we can show the Court the strength of our support.

In Solidarity,

Petra Bolster

[\[public version without signature\]](#)

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