



ENHET/HANDLÄGGARE

International Department/KT/gp

DATUM

2012-02-22

ERT DATUM

DIARIENUMMER

ER REFERENS

Mr. Recep Erdogan, Prime Minister
Ankara
Turkey

Dear Prime Minister,

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

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), representing 1.5 workers and a member of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), is writing to you again to protest in the strongest terms against the harassment and intimidation of our affiliates.

LO has learnt that on 13th 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.

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



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Hatice Beydilli	Egitim Sen Ankara Branch (no.1) Member
Evrin Özdemir Oğraş	Egitim Sen Ankara Branch (no.1) member
Şefika Şimşek	Egitim Sen Ankara Branch Member
Nezahat Asrav	Egitim Sen Ankara Branch Member
Meral Hız	Egitim Sen Ankara Branch Member

After 4 days in custody, on the 16 of February, they were charged with being members an organisation considered illegal, KCK. Pending trial, nine out of the 15 women were maintained in detention and the other 6 released. A total of 27 KESK members, including Executive Committee members, are currently in prison because of their “political ideas”.

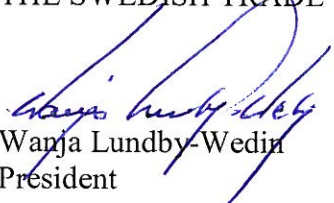
Given the number of times that we have had to write to the Turkish government denouncing attacks against trade unions, we can only agree with our joint affiliates’ assertion that these arrests and ransacking of union offices are part of a continued campaign of oppression, designed to undermine their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

LO 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.

LO will continue to extend its 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 look forward to hearing from you.

Yours respectfully,
THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)


Wanja Lundby-Wedin
President



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