

Justizminister
Abdulhamit Gül
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
TÜRKEI

Dear Minister of Justice,

On 5 July 2017 ten human rights defenders were arrested while attending a routine workshop on the island of Büyükada near Istanbul. Among the ten were Amnesty International's Section Director, İdil Eser. Their arrests came less than a month after the Chair of Amnesty Turkey, Taner Kılıç, was detained in Izmir. He was charged three days later with "membership of the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization" and remanded in pre-trial detention. There were also attempts to link İdil Eser with three unrelated and opposing terrorist organisations through her work with Amnesty International.

The accusations against Taner Kılıç and the "Istanbul 10", as they became known, are absolutely bizarre. They are innocent of any wrongdoing. During their work for human rights organizations in Turkey they have consistently demonstrated an unswerving commitment to human rights.

Please release Taner Kılıç immediately and unconditionally and end the prosecution of the eleven human rights defenders immediately and drop all charges against them.

Yours sincerely,

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