

Mr Mesut Erdiñ Bayhan  
İstanbul Adalet Sarayı  
Çağlayan Meydanı Şişli Merkez Mah.  
Abide-i Hürriyet Cad. No: 223  
Şişli / İstanbul

**ONDERWERP**

provoking others into participation in an unauthorized  
demonstration

**UTRECHT**

31 juli 2014

Dear Prosecutor,

Please allow me to express my concern about 26 members of Taksim Solidarity, a coalition of over 100 NGOs, political groups and professional bodies, who stand accused of “founding a criminal organization” under Article 220/1 of the Penal Code, “provoking others into participation in an unauthorized demonstration” under Article 34/1 of the Law on Meetings and Demonstrations and “refusing to disperse from an unauthorized demonstration” under Article 32/1 of the same law. Dr. Ali Cerkezoglu, then General Secretary of the Istanbul Medical Chamber of the Turkish Medical Association, is among the representatives of social organizations forming the Taksim Solidarity group, and he is among others who are on the trial.

**REFERENTIE**

AH / 14-14277

None of the information presented in the indictment against these people constitutes evidence of participating in or incitement to violence or any other conduct not protected by human rights law. The evidence relates instead entirely to their peaceful presence at a gathering in Gezi Park on 8 July 2013 and their activities as members of the Taksim Solidarity coalition.

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I urge you to ensure that none of these people and any others, who have simply exercised their rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression, will be charged or convicted.

**TELEFOON**

**FAX**

Forming a coalition, calling for public peaceful demonstrations, issuing press releases and holding press conferences are all activities protected under international human rights standards that ensure the right to freedom of assembly, association and expression.

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This case should never have been brought to court. We are concerned that our Turkish colleagues are facing criminal prosecution when they should have been able to do their work freely and without constraint. We therefore urge you to drop all charges.

Yours,



Rutger Jan van der Gaag MD PhD  
President Royal Dutch Medical Association

UTRECHT  
31 juli 2014

REFERENTIE  
AH / 14-14277

**Copy to:**

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