



## German Medical Association

Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians  
German Medical Assembly  
President

Berlin, 30 January 2018

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### Letter in support of our colleagues at the Turkish Medical Association

Dear President Erdoğan,

On behalf of the German Medical Association (GMA), I am writing to condemn in no uncertain terms the flagrant violation of the rights of medical professionals in Turkey that is currently being carried out by your administration, most recently in the form of threats of violence against and the unjustifiable imprisonment of members of the Turkish Medical Association (TMA).

Following the publication of a statement on 24 January 2018 raising awareness of the impact of war on public health, members of the TMA were subjected to coordinated attacks on their freedom of expression, as enshrined in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by Turkey in 2003. In the aftermath, a criminal complaint was filed against the TMA and 11 of its leaders were arrested.

The GMA strongly denounces these intimidation tactics and expresses its full support for the TMA in its efforts to fulfill its humanitarian and human rights obligations as a respected member of the global medical community. We join our colleagues worldwide in decrying this iron-fisted approach to a call for peace and call upon Turkish authorities to immediately release the leaders of the TMA; to put an immediate end to all acts of harassment and intimidation, both judicial and extrajudicial; to guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and policies ratified by Turkey.

We trust that you will take all the necessary actions to cease the harassment and intimidation of health professionals working in accordance with global medical ethical standards, and to safeguard the rights to health, freedom of expression and freedom of association, which are fundamental to the stability and prosperity of a democratic society.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery