



Türk Tabipleri Birliği

____ Turkish Medical Association ____

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Dear Dr. Mungherera,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Turkish Medical Association representing physicians in Turkey, on a very "recent" agenda: "*Violence against Health Professionals*".

As very well known, violence against health professionals is an emergent issue all around the world. Parallel with the global data, we very often face with this problem among our 75 millions of inhabitants in Turkey. Although realistic and sustainable solutions need a much broader perspective, public awareness might be an important motivator to mobilize communities and have their support as a grass root movement.

We want to suggest you to take the lead in producing solutions for this hot topic: *Violence against Health Professionals*. In Turkey, many health staff is facing this "horrible" and "unacceptable" issue during their daily practices. Unfortunately, one of our young medical doctors, **Dr. Ersin Arslan**, was killed on April 17, 2012. Since the date he has passed away, we conducted many activities to solve the problem of "violence" strategically in our country collaboratively with other organizations representing health workers including nurses, health technicians, labour unions, etc. In Turkey, the date of Ersin's death has been "symbolic" for the community as well. We had our international colleagues' support and collaborative efforts from different medical associations. The World Medical Association (WMA) also followed up the Turkish experience very closely. The President of the World Medical Association Dr. José Luiz Gomes do Amaral was in Turkey in those days and joined a demonstration of physicians in Istanbul, Turkey on April 19th 2012 (Thursday) in memory of

Türk Tabipleri Birliği Merkez Konseyi

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Dr. Ersin Arslan who was stabbed to death in his office on April 17th 2012.¹

Violence against health professionals is an issue which could have been prevented through collaborative work. Hence, the whole process needs guidance and a leader. Awareness among both health staff and public can help to produce solutions more systematically.

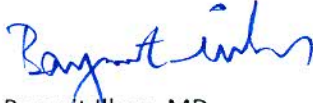
Besides many different activities, a specific date to launch the struggle globally may be a good "starting point". We recommend to determine 17th of April which Dr. Ersin Arslan was killed on his daily practice at the hospital as the **"WORLD DAY ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH PROFESSIONALS"**.

We, as Turkish Medical Association have applied to Ministry of Health of Turkish Republic as representative of Turkey in World Health Assembly in 2013 and 2014 before both World Health Assemblies, and demanded to submit a motion to Assembly for this purpose. Unfortunately, Ministry of Health did not give a positive answer to our demands, and did not submit a motion in World Health Assemblies in 2013 and 2014.

We believe that WMA may be a leader in this regard and would like this topic to be discussed in WMA General Assembly in Durban, October 8th-11th 2014. We recommend to determine 17th of April which Dr. Ersin Arslan was killed on his daily practice at the hospital as the **"WORLD DAY ON COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH PROFESSIONALS"** in WMA General Assembly. If WMA General Assembly accepts our proposal, the proposal may be submitted to World Health Assembly afterwards with the support of WMA.

Please kindly accept our recommendation to be a leader in this regard.

Sincerely yours,



Bayazit İlhan, MD.
President of the Turkish Medical Association

www.ttb.org.tr
<http://www.ttb.org.tr/en/>

¹ <http://www.ttb.org.tr/en/index.php/tuem-haberler-blog/179-ttb/1213-wma>