



***Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini dei Medici
Chirurghi e degli Odontoiatri***

***Press Release
January 31, 2018***

***Detention of the Council of the Turkish Medical Association, FNOMCeO
President: "It is as if they had imprisoned all the doctors of the world"***

"It is unacceptable that the President and the Council of the Turkish Medical Association have been taken into custody by the Turkish police for having defined war as a public health problem, causing irreparable damage on a physical, psychological, social and environmental level".

On behalf of the Italian National Order of Doctors and Dentists (FNOMCeO), the President Filippo Anelli, joining the international protest, denounces the detention of the board of the Turkish Medical Association (TMA).

The detention is only the final act of a long intimidation campaign put in place by the Turkish government against the TMA in recent years.

"It is doctor's duty to protect individual and collective health " continues the FNOMCeO President. "A clear and unavoidable consequence is that doctors can only be in favor of peace, as the first condition for guaranteeing dignity and psychophysical health for people and society. It is therefore even more serious that the colleagues of the TMA have been detained for having fulfilled their fundamental duty, for having implemented a founding principle of our profession. This act goes well beyond censorship, far beyond the limit of freedom of expression: it is as if they wanted to destroy the very meaning of being a doctor and the essence of the Medical Chamber. It is as if the Turkish government had imprisoned all the doctors. So we join the World Medical Association and all the National, European and International Medical Associations in demanding the immediate release of our colleagues and the end of any intimidation. We invite too everyone to join the campaign on social media, with the hashtag #supportTMA ".

Below, the declaration of the TMA Council that triggered the retaliation of the Government.

Public Statement of the Turkish Medical Association

WAR IS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM!

January 24th, 2018

As doctors we warn:

*War is a human-made public health problem with the effects of destroying nature and humankind,
threat to social life.*

Each armed conflict, human and social problems.

Keep in mind our first and foremost duty to defend the environment of peace.

The way to cope with the problem of democracy, equalitarian, free and peaceful life.

No to war; peace now and everywhere!