



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

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Re: Detention of Turkish Medical Association council members

Mr President Erdoğan

By this writing, the International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organizations (IFHHRO), partner of the Turkish Medical Association (TMA), expresses its grave concern about the detention of council members of the Turkish Medical Association, which is part of the current campaign against the Turkish national body of physicians.

The Turkish Medical Association has a very strong record of upholding medical ethics and human rights, and in this tradition the TMA has issued a press release stressing that war is a public health concern. The arrest of TMA council members and the current campaign against the TMA by your administration is a grave violation of international human rights law, and an impermissible intervention in a medical body's policy on medical ethics.

Together with national and international medical professionals organizations, such as the World Medical Association and the British Medical Association, IFHHRO deeply and strongly condemns the arrest of the TMA council members and urge you to immediately release the leadership of the TMA, to immediately end the campaign against the TMA and to ensure TMA's professional independence, including its freedom to express public health concerns, even if these are not in line with your political views.

We insist that you will take all the necessary actions to ensure freedom of independent medical professional policies such as by the TMA, in line with medical ethics and universal human rights and values.

Yours sincerely

Adriaan van Es, MD, secretary IFHHRO

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