



German Medical Association

Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians
German Medical Assembly
President

Berlin, 18 June 2013

Phone
+49 30 400 456-350

Fax
+49 30 400 456-380

Email
praesident@baek.de

Our ref.:/ Your ref.:
Mt/PP/Jä/EI

File no.
860

Page
1 of 1

Bundesärztekammer · Postfach 12 08 64 · 10598 Berlin · Germany

Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
Office of the Prime Minister
Başbakanlık
06573 Ankara
Türkei

Dear Prime Minister Erdoğan,

As President of the German Medical Association I am writing to express my grave concerns about the disproportionate use of force, including excessive violence and chemical gases, against civilian protesters in Istanbul and other cities throughout Turkey.

We are particularly concerned about reports of people being prevented from accessing medical facilities by direct attacks and the disruption of temporary clinics. Our colleagues in Turkey have also informed us about the detention of healthcare workers attending to injured protesters. This is utterly unacceptable and deeply worrying.

Not only does the denial of medical assistance to injured protesters have serious humanitarian implications, targeting medical personnel who come to their aid also violates the international principle of medical neutrality as laid down in the Geneva Convention and medical ethics and human rights law. The primary obligation of physicians is to their patients, and they cannot be prosecuted for carrying out their work according to the principles of their profession.

The German Medical Association therefore calls upon your government to end the targeting of healthcare personnel and urges you to ensure unobstructed access to adequate medical facilities for the injured.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery
President

Bundesärztekammer
Herbert-Lewin-Platz 1
10623 Berlin

Postfach 12 08 64
10598 Berlin

Phone +49 30 400 456-0
Fax +49 30 400 456-388

info@baek.de
www.baek.de