

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



President of Grand National Assembly
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Dear President,

I am writing to you on behalf of the World Medical Association (WMA), the global federation of National Medical Associations representing millions of physicians worldwide. Acting on behalf of patients and physicians, the WMA endeavours to achieve the highest possible standards of medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people. As such, the WMA plays a key role in promoting good practice, medical ethics and medical accountability internationally. The Association supports doctors at risk worldwide.

We have been informed of a new bill related to health submitted to the Grand National Assembly (TBMM) on the 30th of October and approved yesterday by the Health Commission. According to this proposal, physicians who lost their jobs as a result of Law Decrees issued under the State of Emergency (OHAL), will not be able to work in the public sector and, will not be permitted to work in private hospitals operating through contract with the Social Security Agency. This will also apply to the new graduates of medical schools whose “security clearance” is not successful. Medical reports prepared by these physicians shall have no validity before judicial and administrative bodies.

We are very concerned by this proposal in many respects. Not only does it violate the right to work of physicians by preventing them from practicing their profession, it also deprives millions of people from access to health as a result.

A sustainable and equitable health system providing quality care to all those in need relies on a solid workforce with safe and consistent working conditions. Such a proposal would put thousands of physicians out of action, ultimately constituting a tangible threat to the Turkish health system and to the economy of the country.

We deplore any practices threatening the medical profession and the provision of health-care services. The medical profession is guided by clear and recognised ethical principles, including the principle of medical neutrality, and to practice “with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice” ([WMA Declaration of Geneva](#)), so that they can fulfil their duties to provide care for those in need. By attempting to restrain the medical profession, the bill is moving in the opposite direction alarmingly.

We consider the proposal of law dangerous and irresponsible. We urge you to take all the necessary steps so that it is withdrawn immediately.

Turkey has ratified the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which guarantees in its article 12 “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”. We trust that you will honor your commitments and respect your international obligations.

I thank you for your attention.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ardis Hoven, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Ardis Hoven
Chair of WMA Council