

Republikanischer Anwältinnen- und Anwälteverein e.V.

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Berlin, den 9. Mai 2020

#FreeThemAll

Solidarity with our imprisoned colleagues in Turkey

Dr. Lukas Theune, executive director of the Republican Lawyers Association (RAV), member organization of the association of European Democratic Lawyers:

In the name of our association, I want to express our deepest solidarity with our colleagues who are kept in prison in Turkey.

The lives of the imprisoned lawyers, including seven lawyers of the ÇHD and three lawyers of the ÖHD, are acutely endangered due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shocking prison conditions in Turkey. They are on hunger strike since February 3 demanding fair trials for themselves and their clients.

A state, criminalizing one of the main human rights, which is the right to defense, flouts every principle of democracy. Any attack against our colleagues in Turkey is an attack against all of us. And we will never give up fighting for the rights and freedom of our clients.

The prosecutions of our colleagues are obvious violations of Art. 16 and 18 of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers claiming that all governments shall ensure that lawyers are able to perform all of their professional functions without prosecution, intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference and that all lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions.

Therefore, we demand the immediate release of:

Selçuk Kozagaçlı,

Behiç Aşçı,

Engin Gökoğlu,

Aytaç Ünsal,

Aycan Çiçek,

Barkın Timtik,

Oya Aslan,

Ebru Timtik (ÇHD)

Halil İbrahim Vargül and

Semra Özbingöl Çelik (ÖHD)