

Minister of Justice
Minister of Justice Abdulhamit Gül
c/o Amnesty International Canada
312 Laurier Avenue
Ottawa K1N 1H9
Canada

Dear Minister,

I feel compelled to write and call on you to drop the charges against eleven human rights defenders in Turkey, including Amnesty International's İdil Eser and Taner Kılıç.

While eight of them, who had been imprisoned for almost four months, have been released, Taner remains in prison. They all still face shocking and baseless charges of "membership of an armed terrorist organisation."

These 11 people have dedicated their lives to peacefully protecting human rights in Turkey and elsewhere, a vital role in any free and fair society. Yet because of the absurd and patently unfounded allegations, they now face up to 15 years in prison.

Observers like me all around the world can see that this accusation is ridiculous and simply not true. This is why I am joining hundreds of thousands of people in standing with human rights defenders in Turkey.

Defending human rights is not a crime.

Please do the right thing, release Taner Kılıç and drop the charges now.

Yours sincerely,