

PRESS RELEASE

Joint statement by lawyers, judges, and journalists on the ongoing crackdown on the rule of law in Turkey

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The Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), and the European Association of Judges (EAJ) have issued a joint statement firmly condemning the ongoing widespread persecution of lawyers, journalists, judges and prosecutors in Turkey.

The European organisations representing lawyers, judges and journalists published today a joint statement to denounce the ongoing and persistent crackdown on the rule of law in Turkey, which has occurred since the failed coup of 15 July 2016. This is the first time that these three professions have taken such a joint initiative.

According to the latest figures, there are around 2000 (out of 4088 dismissed) judges and prosecutors, 350 lawyers and 150 journalists and media workers being detained, with a further 867 lawyers being prosecuted.

In the statement, the organisations have called for the Turkish government to:

- Restore an independent judicial system in accordance with the rule of law.
- Ensure freedom of expression and of the media.
- Guarantee to all citizens the fundamental right of access to justice and access to a lawyer.
- Respect its international commitments to protect human rights, as guaranteed under the European Convention of Human Rights and other international agreements.
- Release all judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and journalists who have unduly been detained for carrying out their professional activities.
- Uphold the rule of law and democracy in the country.
- Bring an end to the persecution of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and journalists.

The full statement can be found [here](#).

Background:

In July 2016, the CCBE issued a statement highlighting its concerns over the situation in Turkey following the attempted coup of 15 July. Since then, the CCBE has been monitoring very closely the developments in Turkey and issued another statement on World Human Rights Day in December.

About the CCBE:

The CCBE represents the bars and law societies of 45 countries, and through them over one million European lawyers. The CCBE places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law, and is particularly concerned with the situation of human rights defenders around the world. Since 2007, the CCBE has annually granted its Human Rights Award to a lawyer or lawyers' organisation that has brought honour to the legal profession by upholding the highest values of professional and personal conduct in the field of human rights.

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