

Dear Sir/Madam

December 10th marks the 72nd anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which, on December 10, 1948, set down the basic rights and freedoms inherent to all peoples and nations.

On this very day that is celebrated as the day of human rights, we are penning this letter to you in order to draw your attention to the ongoing human rights violations in Turkey and to ask for your help to end ever-increasing lawlessness in the country.

The 24 articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which serves as a milestone document in that it set down the fundamental rights and freedoms inherent to all peoples and nations, are systematically being ignored and violated through judicial verdicts, administrative decisions and political practices.

- People are being charged with “terrorism” or “treason” and otherized based on their views and thoughts.
- They are being prevented from enjoying the basic rights and freedoms through unlawful concepts and means.
- In today's Turkey, where arbitrary arrests and detentions and abductions have become routine, the right to life, liberty and safety is dangerously under threat.
- Serious reports of ill-treatment and torture alleged to have taken place at police stations and in prisons are being ignored and the allegations of torture in the capital city of Ankara are being covered up.
- People are being otherized and they are not accepted as equal citizens entitled to basic rights and freedoms because of their political views.
- People are being taken under custody and arrested based on their political views.
- With the statutory decrees, unconstitutional decisions are being made in a way that restricts basic rights and freedoms and judicial remedies against these decisions are being blocked.

- Judicial function and proceedings continue to be widely carried out in a way that proves the criticisms over the fact that courts have completely lost their independence and impartiality to be fair and accurate.
- Exercise of the right to defense to the full extent is being thwarted through judicial verdicts and administrative decisions.
- People are being declared guilty through administrative decisions, disregarding the presumption of innocence and privacy is being invaded through arbitrary practices.
- People's right to travel is being violated since their passports have been revoked through administrative decisions or because of the restrictions imposed through arbitrary court verdicts on their passports.
- The right to private property is being violated through statutory decrees, administrative decisions or prosecutorial requests.
- Exercise of such rights as the right to congregate, make a press release and join a particular NGO is being thwarted through administrative decisions and those who want to exercise these rights are being prosecuted.
- The right to equal access to public services -particularly such basic services as labor, social security and health- is being prevented.

Our request from you and your institution is to call on the Turkish government, politicians and its authorized bodies to end the unlawful practices and human rights violations some of which we have stated above.

Let us extend our thanks in advance to you for lending your support to us to this end.

Best regards,