

Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdag
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Bakanliklar 06659
Kizilay Ankara, Turkey
Email: bekir.bozdag@tbmm.gov.tr

cc:
Mr. Uğur Kenan İpek, Ambassador
Rosbæksvej 15
2100 København Ø
Email: embassy.copenhagen@mfa.gov.tr

30th December 2020

Your Excellency,

As President and General Secretary of the Danish branch of International PEN, the world association of writers representing members in all regions of the world, we condemn the decision of Istanbul's Caglayan courthouse to sentence the journalist Can Dündar to 27,5 years in prison.

Can Dündar, Editor-in-Chief of Cumhuriyet, are convicted on charges of obtaining state secrets for the purpose of political or military espionage, and for supporting an armed terrorist organization without being a member. However, the verdict can only be understood as an indirectly order from president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has warned that Dundar would "pay a heavy price" for the Cumhuriyet report exposing Turkey's intelligence Agency while publishing a story about Turkish arms shipments to Syrian rebels in 2015.

Unfortunately, the verdict demonstrates the Turkish judicial system to be a subject to political interests, and therefore unreliable, unjust and unfair.

We call on the Turkish authorities to overturn the verdict on Can Dündar, and we furthermore urge the authorities to free the more than 87 journalists and media workers currently in prison in pre-trial detention or serving a sentence in connection with their journalism or the opinions they have expressed.

Sincerely,



Per Øhrgaard, president



Mille Rode, general secretary