

22 June, 2016

The Embassy of Turkey in Israel
20 Hayarkon Street
Tel Aviv-Yafa
Via email: embassy.telaviv@mfa.gov.tr

Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you personally in order to express our shock and alarm at arrest of **Professor Şebnem Korur Fincanci** together with **Mr Ahmet Nesin** and **Mr Erol Önderoğlu** earlier this week.

Over the past years we have had the honour of benefitting from Prof Fincanci's knowledge and experience as a forensic expert. Through her continuous mentorship and support for our work on behalf of victims of institutional violence, we have come to know Prof Fincanci as an inimitable professional guided by ethical integrity, and motivated by a passion for upholding the rights of all individuals regardless of their nationality or political affiliation.

Her professional mentorship has made her a true role model for us, and her leadership has often encouraged us to carry on and better our work for those most in need in a time of deteriorating human rights in Israel and Palestine.

We join the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, whose president is Prof Fincanci, and numerous other organisations and colleagues in calling on Turkey to:

1. Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological wellbeing of Prof Şebnem Korur Fincanci, Mr Erol Önderoğlu and Mr Ahmet Nesin.
2. Release them immediately and unconditionally, and drop all charges against them.
3. Allow them to continue their activities in solidarity of press freedom and freedom of expression, and their work for insuring basic human rights to all individuals.
4. To uphold all the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Adv. Abeer Baker, Founder, Abeer Baker Law Office; **Adv. Sahar Francis**, Director, Addameer - Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association; **Mr Ran Goldstein**, Director, Physicians for Human Rights - Israel; **Adv. Michal Pinchuk**, Director, ASSAF - Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel; **Adv. Bana Shoughry-Badarne**, Director, International Human Rights Clinic - Hebrew University of Jerusalem; **Dr Rachel Stroumsa**, Director, Public Committee Against Torture in Israel