



*Permanent Representation
of Turkey
to the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 19 October 2015

Dear Director,

Concerning the alerts issued by the Council of Europe's "Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists" on the list enclosed herewith, submitted by the European Federation of Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists, the Association of European Journalist and the Reporters Without Borders, I am transmitting at annex the responses of the Turkish Government concerning 15 submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Erdoğan İşcan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Encl.:

- List of alerts
- Information Notes (15)

Mr. Matjaž Gruden
Director
Directorate of Policy Planning
The Council of Europe

2 Apr 2015 - Form concerning Hidayet Karaca submitted by EFJ/IFJ under “Journalist Hidayet Karaca Arrested”

Information provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey

An investigation is being carried out against Hidayet Karaca on the grounds of founding and administering an organization with the purpose of committing crime. The investigation is being conducted by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, upon the denunciation and complaint made to the Istanbul Security Directorate on 16 May 2014. The investigation in question is known to the public as the "Conspiracy against the Tahşiye Group".

The scope of this investigation involves many plaintiffs, approximately 70 other victims and complainants. The allegations examined under this investigation are as follows:

- The evidence in the criminal case was fabricated which was lodged in the scope of another investigation carried out by the Office of Istanbul Chief Public Prosecution in charge;
- These acts and procedures were conducted following the perception studies performed by the media institutions virtually affiliated with Fethullah GÜLEN, upon the suspect Fethullah GÜLEN's instruction and request;
- The law enforcement officers working at the Istanbul Security Directorate and other security directorates in the state of the Republic of Turkey acted in obedience to the orders and instructions which are contrary to law and, as a result, caused the victims or complainants to be unlawfully charged with the offence of being a member of an armed terrorist organization.

Within the scope of this investigation, Hidayet Karaca was detained on the 19 December 2014.

The Government has not applied censorship on the media institutions that Hidayet Karaca works for or on any other media outlets. The investigation is being conducted within the context of accusations of founding and administering an organization with the purpose of committing crime.