



*Permanent Representation
of Turkey
to the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 27 November 2015

Dear Director,

In response to the alert submitted by the European Federation of Journalists and the International Federation of Journalists, I am transmitting at annex the response of the Turkish Government.

Yours sincerely,

Sibel Erkan

Deputy Permanent Representative

Encl.:

- Information Note

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

05 Oct 2015 - Form concerning "Kurdish Daily Attacked, Doors Broken and 32 Journalists Interrogated" submitted by EFJ/IFJ

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

On 28 September 2015, two terrorist attacks were launched against security forces, including with long barrelled weapons. On the same day the Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate of Security received several denunciations informing that the terrorists who had perpetrated the above-mentioned attacks abandoned their vehicles with full of ammunition in Diyarbakır and entered the Kürdi-Der Association building where the offices of the DİHA News Agency and Azadiya Welat Newspaper are located.

On that date, the Public Prosecutor Office issued a warrant of search, arrest and seizure in the building. Accordingly a physical search was conducted at the said location pursuant to Articles 116-119 of the Law no 5271 on Criminal Procedures which allow law enforcement officials to conduct searches in the houses, workplace as well as other non-public places upon the order of the Public Prosecutor if there is peril in delay. During the search 32 people therein who were suspected of being involved in the above-mentioned attacks were taken to the Security Directorate of Diyarbakır. Of those 17 were established as journalists/news reporters and 11 others had other occupations. Professions of 4 others were not determined. All were released after necessary procedures were completed.

It should also be noted that none of these journalists/news reporters was taken to the Directorate of Security due to their journalism activities but in suspicion of involvement with a terrorist attack in pursuant to the Law no 5271 and released after the necessary procedures were completed.