



*Permanent Representation
of Turkey
to the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 08 January 2016

Dear Director,

In response to the alerts submitted by the European Federation of Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists and the Index on Censorship, I am transmitting at annex the responses of the Turkish Government concerning these two submissions.

Yours sincerely,

Erdoğan İşcan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Encl.:

- List of alerts
- Information Notes (2)

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

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List of Submissions

- On 12 November 2015 under the title of “Journalist Beyza Kural Briefly Detained and Threatened with Violence by Police While Covering Protest”,
- On 12 October 2015 under the title of “‘Today's Zaman' Journalist Bülent Keneş Arrested”.

12 Nov 2015 - Form Concerning "Journalist Beyza Kural Briefly Detained and Threatened with Violence by Police While Covering Protest" submitted by EFJ/IFJ and Index on Censorship

A demonstration march that was held on 6 November 2015 in Beyazıt Campus, in Fatih District, İstanbul, with a view to protesting the 34th anniversary of the establishment of the Higher Education Council of Turkey, turned into an unlawful meeting due to the illegal nature of the banners and placards carried by protestors. As per article 23 of the Law on Meetings and Demonstration Marches (Law No: 2911), it is forbidden to carry illegal placards, banners, panels, instruments and materials; or to chant illegal slogans in the course of a demonstration march.

The law enforcement units asked the protestors to remove the banners and placards which were illegal. Upon the refusal of the protestors, the police intervened into the group. While protestors were dispersed, Beyza Kural who was among them, was held by the law enforcement officers for a while and released immediately upon her identification as a journalist.